

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: **Monday 7th April 2025**

Time: 6.30pm

Location: Saul Parochial House Meeting Room

Attendees: Vivienne McCormick, Paul Kelly, Paul Fitzsimons, Tommy McCabe and Geraldine McVeigh.

Chair: Vivienne McCormick / **Vice Chair:** Post vacant / **Secretary:** Geraldine McVeigh.

1. Apologies: Fr. Brankin.

2. Opening Prayer led by Paul Fitzsimons.

The Chairperson welcomed members to the meeting. We continue to pray for Pope Francis and the children making their First Confession and Confirmation.

3. Adoption of Minutes from previous Meeting – 10th March 2025.

The minutes from the above meeting were circulated to all members via email prior to tonight's meeting. All agreed and a proposal was made by Paul Kelly and seconded by Paul Fitzsimons to adopt the minutes as presented. The minutes were adopted and signed off by the Chairperson and Secretary. A copy will be held on file in the Parochial Office and a copy will be published on the Parish website and displayed on the Church noticeboard.

- Action: Geraldine to email minutes to Parish secretary for publication on the Parish website.

- Action: Copy minutes to go on Church noticeboard.

4. Matters Arising

- **School Family Prayer Ministry**

Vivienne sent out the Easter prayers today.

- Action: No further action required.

- **Readers Training Day**

No new date has been arranged as Tobar Mhuire is very busy at the moment – it will probably be better to leave it until October with people going on holiday. This will be followed by a Training Day for Ministers of the Eucharist.

- Action: New date for Reader's training to be arranged.

- **Easter Ceremonies**

Fr. Brankin has arranged the following:

Palm Sunday: Vigil Mass 5.00pm, Saul 9.30am, Carlin 12.15pm

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.00pm followed by Adoration until 9.00pm.

Good Friday: Passion of the Lord 3.00pm. Stations of the Cross on the Mountain 5.30pm.

Easter Vigil: 9.00pm.

Dawn Mass on the mountain: 6.00am.

Easter Sunday morning: Saul 9.30am, Ballycruttle 12.15pm.

Confessions: There will be confessions at 10.30am on Holy Saturday.

Vivienne has sent out the rota of Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Palm Sunday and will send out the Easter rotas.

- Action: Vivienne to send out the Easter rotas for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers.

- **Saul Community Association:**

Vivienne sent an email to the Saul Community email address – they have come back and said they will decide whether to put the Parish information in their Newsletter.

- Action: No further action required.

- **Pastoral Council Training**

Vivienne has received slides and information from the Pastoral Council Training Follow On evening on Thursday 27th March and will send these on to Council members. The final Follow-on Training evening will be held on 29th April from 7.00pm to 9.00pm in The Crypt, Downpatrick if anyone wants to go.

- Action: Vivienne to send out slides and information on Pastoral Council Training.

5. Saul Sunday/Sacred Heart Statue

Saul Sunday will take place this year on Sunday 1st June and Bishop Alan McGuckian wants to promote it in the Diocese. The island of Ireland is being re-consecrated to the Sacred Heart at Knock on 22nd June 2025. Four pilgrim Sacred Heart statues have been blessed by Pope Francis and will travel across Ireland. We will have one of the four statues on the mountain for Saul Sunday - we could have a Guard of Honour for the statue going up the hill - it will be brought back to the Church and stay there until Monday. Fr. Brankin would like to have Adoration or some sort of service while the statue is in the Church. One of the four priests who are bringing the statues to

Ireland will attend with the statue. We do not know yet how long it will stay in Downpatrick after it leaves here. The statues will visit as many as possible of churches dedicated to the Sacred Heart.

- Action: No action required.

6. Any other Business

- **300 Club Draw.**

Ticket sales for the draw are going well. The first draw has been put back for several reasons – some people are transferring money straight into the parish bank account and others are continuing their direct debit, so these must be checked out – two draws will take place in May.

- Action: No action required.

- **Cemetery Policy**

Vivienne has been awaiting an opportunity to speak to Amanda to see whether the solicitor has approved the update to the Cemetery Policy to enable it to be available to parishioners but has deferred this until Amanda has completed the accounts as she is very busy in the office. It was thought it might be helpful if Amanda has some help in the office especially when she comes back from her sick leave– Vivienne will speak to Fr. Brankin about this.

- Action: Vivienne to speak to Fr. Brankin re help in the office.

- **Youth Ministry**

Fr. Robert had wanted to get a Youth Ministry started in the parish and had got the names of a few young people who were interested. One of them came to Vivienne a couple of weeks ago and said he wanted to start the FOCUS programme in the parish – Vivienne explained to him that he would have to get it approved by Fr. Brankin and Canon Murray. There is another programme, Recharge, which Jackie thought was the better programme. Vivienne will speak to Pathways to get advice on how to proceed.

- Action: Vivienne to speak to Pathways re Youth Ministry

7. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be **Monday, 12th May 2025 at 6.30pm.** Prayer Leader will be Paul Kelly.

8. Closing Prayer: Meeting concluded with a closing prayer.