

Minute of St Mary's Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 19th January, 2023

Present: Fr. Jim, Fr. Alexander, Deacon Len, A. Creegan, K. Duffy, L. Gould, A. Hampton, P. Johnston, A. Smith, L. Smith, E. Murphy **Apologies:** A. Singleton, G. Fitzpatrick, A. Mills

Fr. Jim opened the meeting with a prayer and Anne Creegan welcomed Pauline to her first Parish Council meeting.

The minute of the previous meeting was read and approved by A. Hampton and L. Gould

Matters Arising:

Sunday Mass - Sign up Sunday: To invite more people to help with various jobs in the church Fr. Jim gave everyone a copy of the sign-up-sheets which will be made available to all parishioners in the very near future.

He also spoke about the decline in numbers of people attending church, not only in St. Mary's but all over, and said that a way forward would have to be found. He mentioned a book by Fr James Mallon called "Divine Renovation" illustrating what could be done to rectify this and he hoped to start a programme of workshops during Lent based on this book.

Children's Liturgy: Lynn said that this is going very well.

School-Parish Sacrament Preparation Programme: Lisa said that the pupils had completed the sacrament of Reconciliation on 20th December, 2022. Their second confession would be on 28th March, 2023 at 6.00 p.m.

First Holy Communion would take place on Saturday, 3rd June, 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

Hall: Anne H. said that £8261.80 had been transferred to the OPAS Parish account.

One of the stairs to the upper hall is closed due to water damage and access is now by one stairway only.

We have been told that Fire Regulations now state that the upper hall capacity should be 60 and the lower hall 91.

Fabric & Planning:

Restoration Project: A copy of the minutes of two meetings, held in November, 2022, with the architects were distributed. The outcome of the meetings was that the group reluctantly agreed to delay the application so that a high standard application could be submitted.

Energy Use/Bill Monitoring: John Omeara will be in tomorrow to discuss bill procedures.

Church Heating: A copy of the report John O'Meara had prepared with regard to finding a heating solution for the church was distributed. He said that best type of heating could be infrared halogen heaters attached to the walls.

There are two companies who provide free quotations and are church heating specialists. Further investigation reqd.

Fund Raising & Social Committee:

Programme of events to be discussed: 24th February, 2023 Bingo; March - St. Patrick's Night?

23rd April, 2023 - Sing along with Gary White

Finance Committee:

Fr. Jim and Pauline visited the diocesan office to discuss the working of OPAS in relation to Gift Aid.

Gift Aid envelopes will have to be ordered. (The last envelope date is 28th May, 2023)

Special Collection: Fr. Jim suggested that if it was thought that there were too many Special Collections it might be an option periodically to simply make a donation from Parish Funds.

SVdP: Alan said that they were helping more families and praised the generosity of the parishioners. They had bought £500 of vouchers from Farmfoods to be given to needy families. Personal items e.g. socks, blankets, etc. will be made available.

100 Club: Anne C said that we had 96-97 members.

Ecumenical: Emily said that the switching on of the Lochee Christmas lights went well. A short service was held before in Lochee Parish Church and refreshments afterwards in St. Mary's.

SCIAF: £1500 had been sent for the Water Project.

Kathleen said that SCIAF boxes would be sent to the church.

Grateful thanks from the recipients of the Christmas Sock Appeal.

She asked if the Stations of the Cross would be taking place on Friday morning during Lent. It was confirmed they would - starting at 9.30 a.m.

AOCB: Fr. Jim said a big thank you to Anne Hampton and Anne Creegan for the work they did in organising the Christmas Party. It was very much appreciated.

The meeting was closed with a prayer from Fr. Alexander.