

ST HELEN'S LANGSIDE

MINUTES OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING ON TUESDAY, 23rd OCTOBER 2007 AT 7.30pm IN CHAPEL HOUSE

Present:

Fr Paul Murray	Frances Keane	Ron Stoney
Fiona McCartney	Myra Barton	Margaret Jean
Mary Madden	Sister Joanne	Gerry Santangeli
Fr Freddie Abé	Pat Weatherall	Kathleen Fitzpatrick
Anne Miller		

1. Apologies: Arthur Quinn

This was the first Parish Pastoral Council meeting following the appointment of Fr Paul Murray as Parish Priest, and Gerry, on behalf of the PPC, welcomed Fr Paul and Fr Freddie, Assistant Priest.

2. Matters Arising from previous Minutes (02/05/2007)

- Tidying up of Church courtyard: Continued thanks to Gerry and his helpers for their work in clearing up this area.

3. Newsletters

It was acknowledged that the Newsletter had achieved a lot of good. This was not just because of its content, but also through the personal contact with the messenger. The continued vale of the newsletter however was questioned. While the personal contact was still seen to be valuable, it was acknowledged that its role within the Pastoral Plan was no longer relevant. In addition, there were fewer and fewer messengers and it had been noted that many of the newsletters are now not collected for distribution. In the light of all of this, it was decided, with regret, to discontinue the production of a newsletter.

4. Advent and Christmas Events

- a) Novena during Advent ?
- b) It was agreed that St Helen's should provide a Christmas Card, signed by Fr Paul and Fr Freddie, and giving Masses, Services and Events over the Christmas period. This could be mailed to all parishioners, however, the Parish Register may not be up-to-date. "Faith into Action" listings may be the most up-to-date. There are approximately 1700-1800 parishioners. Mass times would be the same as previous years although it was noted that there would only be one Vigil Mass at 7.00 pm
Action: Fr Paul to investigate.
- c) Small Diaries already on order - Calendars may be cost-prohibitive.
Action: Fr Paul to investigate.
- d) Publicity: Fr Paul had received a 'catalogue' of Christmas publicity material and invited comments on a particular outdoor banner, which was approved by all present.
Action: Fr Paul
- e) Children's Events:
 - Christmas Concert/Carol Service (followed by mince pies + juice in the hall)
 - Jesse Tree (Gift Tree) **Action: Pat W. providing gift tags - Gerry providing tree.**
 - Christmas Tree - Lights switch-on?
 - Much discussion ensued, with Father Paul expressing the opinion that such a service was not consistent with the spirit of the Advent liturgy.

5. A.O.C.B.

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- a) Mgr Hart's Retirement Evening: PPC thanked Fr Paul for his support, advice and sponsorship which made this a very friendly, happy and joyous celebration.
- b) The "40 Hours" Adoration: Thank you, again, to Fr Paul and Fr Freddie, for an affirming, enlightening, spiritual and worshipful, holy experience.
- c) R.C.I.A. There are six (maybe 7) Inquirers attending this Course.
- d) Let of Hall: St Helen's Hall is not available for Commercial Let. Some parishioners have occasionally booked it for 'a special event' and payment has been by donation. It was agreed that a leaflet should be produced and displayed publicly indicating guidelines for booking the hall. **Action: Gerry and Margery Watson**
- e) The "issue" of a Keyholder for the hall was also discussed.

6. Some Observations from Fr Paul

- a) Security - or lack of security! Fr Paul is exploring options regarding the right-hand (hall) door.
- b) During the hours of Exposition - it was suggested that the doors from the 'Crying Chapel' into the body of the Church should be locked - again, for security reasons. This was not a popular suggestion. It was agreed that a fresh drive should take place to enlist more people for Adoration and then produce a new Rota. The alternative would be to cut the times/days for Adoration in St Helen's - Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament should never be Exposed in an empty Church. **Action: Fr Paul monitoring the situation.**

- c) Church Environment: Fr Paul has arranged for a Lighting Designer to survey the Sanctuary, in particular, and also to advise on improved lighting throughout the Church. This proposal is welcomed, especially by those of us whose eyesight is not what it used to be!

Sacristy area to be reviewed in 2008.

Fr Paul confirmed that he would contact Pollokshaws Glaziers regarding the repairs to the Sacristy windows, etc.

- d) Parking: Fr Paul was asked to contact Dr McLeod regarding availability of his car park on a Sunday morning.
- e) Children's Safety on a Sunday morning: Parents to be asked to supervise their "wee ones" who career around the courtyard on Toddlers' Toys, causing panic and chaos, especially their own safety as they narrowly miss going straight onto the main road.
- f) Diary Dates:

Pancake (Monday)	4 February 2008:
Ash Wednesday:	6 February
Easter Sunday:	23 March

7. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 4th March 2008 at 7.30pm in St Helen's Presbytery.

Anne Miller
24th October 2007