

**PARISH OF SAINT HELEN
LANGSIDE
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES**



THURSDAY 28th MARCH 2019 7.30PM ST. HELEN'S CHURCH

1.WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER / SCRIPTURE READING

2.PRESENT: Monsignor Paul, Attracta O'Reilly, Clare Gonella, Grace Cohen, Fiona Mc Cartney, Michael O' Neill & Jackie Black.

APOLOGIES: Deacon Kevin, Chiara Piacentini and Patricia Weatherall

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: (22/1/19) Read, discussed and approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

a) Children's Singing Group – Numbers are low for Good Friday 'Stations of the Cross for Children' preparation. Possibly won't go ahead as a result of this. Continue to offer the practices after Mass in the hope that the numbers attending increase. Council agreed that whilst Singing group and Music group are separate, it would be beneficial for both to discuss choices for future parish liturgical /community celebrations.

b) Pre-Sacramental Course for Parents - A draft document has been prepared and awaits review and approval.

c) Contact with Cluster Parishes – will wait for future directives from the Archdiocese, re cluster group, and will respond accordingly.

d) Protocol regarding recordings during Services – Consent Forms for photography at Services is in place and meets with Safeguarding recommendations. Recordings/photographs must have a purpose and a specified duration. (2 weeks) A Draft format of wording re photograph use etc, consistent with Safeguarding policy, was distributed, discussed and amended. Next step is to have this information printed and laminated and copies left in the kitchen area - to be read out at the start of each Parish event. Also includes Health & Safety advice.

e) Notice of PPC Meetings in bulletin – Notification of PPC Meetings in bulletin on 2 occasions before meeting - allowing parishioners a chance to put forward ideas, suggestions and comments.

f) Create/update database of groups, members and purpose in Parish Forms have been distributed to groups for completion and will be collated when all of them have been returned (request for forms to be returned by SUNDAY 31ST MARCH'19) Group information on website will be updated once information has been gathered. If there are noticeable gaps regarding

the groups offered by the Parish, then the next step would be to ask parishioners for ideas regarding new groups.

5. SAFEGUARDING UPDATE – Church Safeguarding Member gave a written update which was read by Monsignor. Information on notice boards continues to be updated on a regular basis.

Annual Audit

The audit was completed and submitted within the agreed timescales.

New Volunteers

Since the last meeting a further 2 applications have been processed - both Children's Liturgy A further 2 have been issued but not yet verified, again Children's Liturgy and possibly a new volunteer for SSVP .

Recruitment Procedures

Safeguarding Member has created a folder with step by step information on the current volunteer admin procedures . This can be kept somewhere central (still to be established).

PPC discussed the above and thought it would be appropriate to keep this folder in the Sacristy, clearly labelled and in a visibly designated place.

6. CATECHESIS: First Confessions on Saturday 13th April'19. (Preparation sessions held on previous Saturdays)

7. OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARISHIONERS – FEEDBACK (January – March'19)

a) Film – ‘Pope Francis – A Man of his Word’ Film. This film was received very favourably, with parishioners feeding back at how moved they were at Pope Francis's interaction with people. Large crowd attended. Three Raffle prizes were gifted and distributed with monies raised for Parish funds.

b) Pancake Sunday - More people came to the hall after Mass than would normally do, reflecting some growing bonds of Parish community. Will consider Sunday option again next year.

c) LENTEN PROGRAMME

Robert Barron Series DVD series ‘Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues’ followed by reflection and a chat afterwards. Series running over 4 weeks of Lent. Average attendance each week 20/25 people.

‘Sharing the Journey’ –through reflection and prayer of refugees and those marginalised. SCIAF/ Justice and Peace input. Tuesday 2nd April'19.

‘Stations of the Cross Then and Now’ – Video presentation of the Stations of the Cross, by Denis McBride, guiding us along the way of the cross using powerful images to open up new ways of praying about Jesus' journey. Tuesday 16th April'19 (Holy Week))

Feedback, so far, is favourable. Lots of positive conversations after each presentation indicating content was well received, with fruitful reflections/discussions.

AGAP – ‘A sign of Contradiction: The Passion Story’ - will be performed in St. Helen’s Hall as part of Lentfest 2019. (Saturday 13th April 2019 at 7.30pm.)

8. PARISH PASTORAL PLAN (FORWARD PLANNING – APRIL - JUNE’19)

April’19 - Activities will relate to preparations for Easter through weekly Lenten reflections. Easter Vigil Mass will be at 9.00pm on Saturday 20/4/19. As we have no candidates receiving either Baptism and/or Confirmation this year it was decided not to have teas in the hall after the Vigil Mass.

Instead decision made to have Easter cakes in the hall after 11am Mass on Easter Sunday. No evening Mass on Easter Sunday 21/4/19.

May’19 – Possible trip to Carfin as a Parish event. Enquire about possible date and programme for May.

June’19 – 40 Hours at St. Helen’s 9/6/19
Parish Family BBQ – Sunday 23/6/19.

9. LITURGY

a) **CHILDREN’S LITURGY** 2 new leaders have been recruited.

b) **MUSIC GROUP** – Will continue to ask for musicians, particularly guitarists, in bulletin, website and social media after Easter.

10. DECORATION OF PORCHES Update

a) **Quote for handrail** – still waiting for quote

b) **Mission statement** - to be amended and displayed in both porches

c) **Notice Boards** – ongoing development with possibly of header signs produced for PPC, Parish Groups, Events etc.

11. FAO PARISH COUNCIL

a) **SSVP** –Members have prepared information sheet and a helpful contact information sheet to be displayed on Notice Boards. These will be laminated and displayed ASAP.

SSVP will also present a gift of rosary beads to the younger members of our parish and to groups who use the church hall (Brownies, Irish dancers etc)

PPC shown sample of ‘The Real Easter Egg’ made using Fairtrade chocolate and containing an activity booklet explaining the Easter story, a possibility for use as an Easter gift for young children.

b) **Suggestion boxes**– 1 item for consideration regarding parish life and the need for more Parish volunteers for assistance in all areas of Parish life. A possible appeal

for Parish volunteers in the near future, could link with the issue of the 'Family of Faith' update of Parish groups.

11. AOCB

A version of a short but succinct definition of a Parish Pastoral Council along with an equally short and clear description of its purpose was presented and it was suggested that after some minor adjustments, to be agreed at the next PPC meeting, this short version could be used in the 'Family of Faith' updated descriptions of Parish groups.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING -TUESDAY 28TH MAY 2019. PARISH MEETING ROOM 7.30PM

13. CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING