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## **St John Vianney's, Gilmerton: Note of the Open Meeting of the Parish Council**

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2010 – 7.00 p.m. – Parish Hall**

The meeting was attended by the Parish Team (Fr Jock and Sr Ninian) and 16 parishioners.

#### **Welcome and Prayer**

The Chairperson, Carol Mulvenna, welcomed everybody and read the Gospel passage from today's Mass. Fr Jock then led us in prayer.

#### **Parish Team Report: 22<sup>nd</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

Fr Jock and Sr Ninian presented the following report:

- It has been a very busy period, liturgically and sacramentally. We have celebrated:
  - Lent
  - Holy Week
  - Easter, including the reception of 5 adults into our Cluster faith community
  - Confirmations
  - First Communions
  - Baptisms
  - Ordination of Anthony Caruana.
- During April Fr Jock led a group of 22 parishioners on a pilgrimage that included Ars (where St John Vianney ministered during his lifetime), Avignon, Taize and the L'Arche community at Trosly.
- The continuation of our Cluster Faith Journey with a retreat day on Saturday 1st May. This included input from Frs Mike, Jock and Peter Scally along with an opportunity to share and discuss.
- A presentation to the parish on Finance on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May. This seems to have been well received with an increase in the number of individuals signing up for Gift Aid and an increase in the weekly collection, culminating in our largest Sunday collection since Fr Jock arrived (over £640).
- Ongoing progress with fabric, especially the project to transform our garden area.
- There have been developments on the communication front with the launch of the Cluster website and the publication and distribution of the Parish Welcome and Information Booklet, both during May. We have also erected a new notice board.
- The Parish Coordinating Group had a very fruitful meeting with representatives of the Filipino Community. The principal outcomes were:
  - The Filipino community will organise a food fundraiser during August, selling food after the Sunday Mass.
  - A couple of young Filipinos will join the Readers rota.
  - The introduction of a periodic Filipino section in the newsletter (in their native language, Tagalo).
  - A commitment to organise another Celtic-Filipino social evening.
  - The formation of a group to represent the Filipino Community.

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- Fr Jock approached Carol Mulvenna and asked her if she would be willing to take on the role of Social Coordinator, working alongside Christine Barratt and Catherine Imrie. Carol has agreed to this and will step down from Children's Liturgy to facilitate this.
  - In a similar vein, Fr Jock approached Eileen Lewis and asked her to work alongside Frank Quinn to develop the ministry of Welcome. Eileen agreed to this and will also step down from Children's Liturgy to create space and time for this new role.
  - There has been positive feedback from the parents involved in the sacramental preparation programme, 'Do this in memory of Me'.
  - Sr Ninian and Fr Jock recently attended a workshop on preparing parents for Baptism. As a result of this, they are in the process of forming a team to help with preparation in the parish.
  - The Senior Citizens dinner and party was held during May and was enjoyed by all.
  - Brief updates were provided by some of the groups and organisations represented at the meeting:
    - Scouts – the children have been doing a lot of badge work; they hope to organise a weekend camp.
    - Guild – doing well but numbers dwindling.
    - Church Cleaning – Needs new recruits. Ena McCann to prepare a note for the newsletter asking for help.
    - Sunday Teas/Coffees – going well.
    - Youth Group – Split into an older and younger group at Easter. It will take time to establish the older group, but they hope it will start to take off after the summer break. Planning another weekend trip to Benmore at the start of October. They are very grateful to Cluster parishes for their support of the Race Night to raise funds for Benmore.
    - Flowers – Ethel Ferguson and Maureen Burns are finding looking after the flower arranging increasingly difficult. Ethel agreed to prepare a note for the newsletter asking for some help.

### **Questions to Fr Jock and Sr Ninian**

1. Kathy Duffy said that she had been approached by a number of parishioners and asked to request a return to our traditional Burns' Night celebration. This led to a more general discussion about parish social life. The issues discussed included the need to coordinate social events across the Cluster, the fact that we were operating in a new context (i.e. as part of a Cluster) and the smaller numbers in our community. There was particular discussion around the Burns' Night and Indo-Scottish events. It was suggested that we look at trying to offer a blend of social events throughout the year, mixing the traditional (e.g. Burn's and St Patrick's nights) with the newer innovations (Indo-Scottish and Celtic-Filipino) and that perhaps we could create a schedule to accommodate all of them – e.g. the Indo-Scottish night could be later in the year.
2. The issue of communication was also discussed, particularly the information available about the social celebrations following Anthony's ordination. All of the decision-making about this was taken at Cluster level and arrangements couldn't be finalised until Anthony arrived from Malta. There was recognition that, as we have more visibly and actively become a Cluster, this has presented new communication challenges.

## Plans for the forthcoming months

Fr Jock and Sr Ninian detailed their plans:

- The next stage of the Cluster Faith Journey will be gatherings on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September, both from 10am to 1pm in St Catherine's.
- The Baptismal Preparation team will be formed and prepared.
- Eileen Lewis and Frank Quinn will start to put together a team of Welcomers.
- We hope to establish a Liturgy Group sometime during autumn. One of its focuses will be helping plan liturgies so that there can be more preparation in advance.
- We hope to set up a group to help at Jericho House working alongside parishioners from St Gregory's'.
- The Pope's visit to Scotland will be on 16<sup>th</sup> September. We don't have full details yet, but do know that each parish will receive an allocation of tickets for the Mass at Bellahouston and this allocation will be related to numbers attending Mass.
- At 7 p.m. on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010, Cardinal O'Brien will be principal celebrant at a Mass in the Cathedral to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination. Each parish will receive 1 ticket for every 50 parishioners attending weekend Mass. St John Vianney's will receive 5. Fr Jock asked for suggestions regarding how we allocate the 5 tickets.
- RCIA and Sacramental preparation will resume again after the school summer holidays.
- There was a request that the Mass for the sick be scheduled for September or October. Fr Jock and Sr Ninian will discuss and agree a date.
- Gerry Mulvenna reported that following a recent incident in the hall during which a child was hurt, there is an urgent need to take a number of actions. The first step is to establish a group representing all the key hall stakeholders – Fabric Coordinator, Treasurer, Hall Caretaker, Tea/Coffee Rota Coordinator, Social Coordinator, Scouts and Youth Group – to pull together a joint Risk Assessment, designate individuals to be responsible for each of the risks, establish a formal process for keeping the Risk Assessment up-to-date and agree a timetable for review of the Risk Assessment. Gerry will organise a meeting of this group as soon as possible.
- Fundraising
  - Susanne Lackie and Kathleen Thomson have advised that the proposed fayre will now be delayed until spring or summer next year.
  - Jacqui and Brian Phillips have offered to help with fundraising.
  - Possible fund raisers might include a Race Night and a Ceilidh.
  - Carol Mulvenna, in her capacity as Social Coordinator, agreed to organise a meeting involving Jacqui, Brian, Susanne Lackie and Kathleen Thomson to develop a fundraising plan for the parish.
  - It was recognised that successful fundraising will require the backing of the parish and the Cluster.
  - Fr Jock concluded by stating his desire that we develop a fundraising culture in the parish.

## **Discussion Groups**

We then split into small groups with a remit to think about the highs and lows of the parish life over the last few months. The feedback from the groups included:

### *Positives:*

- Celebration of First Communion and the 'Do this in memory of Me' programme.
- Children's Liturgy.
- Cluster Faith journey.
- Anthony's Ordination and the celebrations that followed.
- The way the Scout and Youth Groups are developing.
- The plans for the Welcomers, Social, Fundraising and Liturgy Groups.
- The number of Baptisms.

### *Negatives*

- Sadness that we see so few of the children and their families after their Baptism or First Communion.
- Sisters Stella and Theresa leaving the parish.
- The lack of people coming forward to be actively involved in parish life.
- Our lack of funds.

## **Any Other Business**

1. A request was made for pictures of the Parish Coordinating Group and the Welcomers to be placed at the back of the Church.
2. An update on the hymn board for the left hand side of the Church was requested. Fr Jock reported that this would be purchased as soon as funds were available.

## **Elections to the Parish Coordinating Group (PCG)**

- Carol Mulvenna and Mel Lagman are standing down after serving their term on the PCG.
- Susan Blaney was nominated and it was agreed that she be elected.
- Fr Jock will approach Andrew Cameron (our Fabric Coordinator) and ask if he is willing to be part of the PCG.
- Kathleen Caparoso has agreed to represent the Filipino community on the PCG.
- Fr Jock will approach the Indian community and ask if they would be willing to nominate one of their group to become part of the PCG.
- We agreed that, even if all of the above consented to being part of the PCG, we should seek to elect one additional person and the best time to do this would be at the next open parish meeting during October.
- To achieve consistency with the rest of the Cluster, Fr Jock asked that we change the name of the Parish Coordinating Group to Pastoral Council. This was agreed.
- Fr Jock thanked Carol for her work as PCG chair over the last three years.

## **Close**

The meeting closed with everybody singing the Our Father.