

**MINUTES OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
DUNSFORD AND ARDGLASS**

DATE: 27 November 2024

PRESENT:

Fr McCloskey (FrMcC) – President

Meave Gilchrist (MG) – (Downpatrick Pastoral Community Forum {DPCF} Rep) – Chairperson

Carmel Doherty (CD) – Secretary

Jeannette Hunter (JH), Bernie Wilkinson (BW) and Barbara McConvey (BMcC)

AGENDA POINT	DETAILS:	ACTION BY:
1	Opening Prayer: The opening prayer was led by FrMcC.	
2	Apologies: Sean McAlea (SMcA) – Prayer leader	
3	Mission Statement: MG read the mission statement for reflection by the Council.	
4	Adoption of Minutes: The adoption of the minutes from the previous meeting, of 28 October 2024, was proposed by JH and seconded by BMcC.	
5	Matters Arising:	
5.1	Eucharistic Ministers and home visits: FrMcC has provided a list to the organiser of Eucharistic Minister rotas. MG will discuss with her regarding organising a rota for Eucharistic Ministers to assist with home visits.	MG
5.2	The November Mass for deceased parishioners went over well and the Committee advised of the lovely message from one parishioner sent to the parish Facebook page.	
5.3	Visitation to nursing homes – carried over to next meeting	
6	Christmas Masses: Monday 9 th December will be the feast day of the Immaculate Conception, it will not be a holy day of obligation. There will be a morning Mass only in Ardglass on 9 th however, there will be vigils at 7.30pm in both Strangford and Killough. It is proposed to have vigil Masses on Christmas Eve at 6pm in Dunsford and at 8pm in Ardglass. There will be a morning Mass at 10am in Dunsford.	

	<p>New year's eve Mass will be held as usual.</p> <p>The Bishop has advised that parishes must make their plans for Masses as if one priest is unavailable, this it to permit others to cover if it proves necessary.</p> <p>Tuesday 17th December – Penitential service in Ardglass chapel.</p>	
7	<p>Family of Parishes Update:</p> <p>There was a meeting held on 26th November discussing working strategically within the family of parishes and the existence of the Pastoral Community Forum. It was reported that it was a good meeting and there were proposals to arrange courses for various ministries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be one safeguarding committee for the whole family of parishes. • Funeral ministers have been commissioned for all parishes but one. • Facilitators will be trained within the family of parishes • There is a course entitled 'Called and Gifted' for people to identify what gifts they have for a pastoral calling, what charisms to create disciples. • Formation for parish pastoral councils within the family of parishes – Aisling will arrange this. • The Pastoral Community Forum compliments the Parish Pastoral Councils, it does not replace them. • There is a drive to arrange some youth training within the family of parishes • There will be a new Facebook page for the Family of Parishes. <p>It was noted that while we would wish to revive the Bethany group in the parish, there is no training currently available.</p>	
8.	<p>Parish Mission:</p> <p>FrMcC posed the question as to whether we should arrange a parish mission. The council discussed and agreed it would be a good idea.</p> <p>The previous mission was very well attended and it is hoped to arrange in 2025.</p>	
9.	<p>PPC Training:</p> <p>There is training on offer for new members of the Parish Pastoral</p>	

	<p>Council. We will be notified once it is offered to our parish.</p> <p>FrMcC advised that current members can re-train if desired but it is hoped that some new members would volunteer.</p>	
10.	<p>Jubilee Year: The jubilee begins in diocese on 29 December 2024, and in parishes on 1 January 2025. There will be some form of opening held for the jubilee year in the family of parishes.</p> <p>An event called '24 hours for the Lord' will be held on the 8th and 9th of March – confessions will be available for all in Downpatrick.</p>	
11.	AOB:	
11.1	New book has been published called 'A family Guide to Planning and Celebrating a Funeral in the Catholic Church'. Copies are available for collection from the parish sacristy.	
11.2	<p>It was raised that lighting at the Dunsford chapel gate, at the Old School, is poor and a light is required as some people have stumbled.</p> <p>FrMcC will consider.</p>	FrMcC
11.3	<p>Daily Mass: The question as to whether one daily Mass could be an evening Mass to allow those who cannot attend in the morning to have the option of attending an evening one.</p> <p>FrMcC agreed to consider in the general review of all Masses.</p>	FrMcC
12	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>The date for the next meeting was agreed for Monday 27th January 2025 at 7pm in the meeting room.</p>	
13	The closing prayer was led by FrMcC	