**St Joseph’s Pastoral Council Extraordinary meeting 26th Jan 2022**

 **Minutes - final**

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| **Date of meeting** | **03/06/20** | **15/07/20** | **21/10/20** | **03/02/21** | **05/02/21** | **01/09/21** | **10/11/21** | **26/01/22****Extraordinary meeting** |
| **Canon Stephen Baillie** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **p** |
| **Deacon Paul Graham** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **A** | **A** | **A** |  |  |
| **Peter McMillan (Chair from Sep 2020)** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **p** |
| **Alison Macdonald** | **P** | **A** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **p** |
| **Pat Hassett (Chair up to Jul 2020)** | **P** | **P** | **Resigned** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Angela Gow** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **A** |
| **Emma Merriman** | **A** | **Resigned** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Jonathon Cumming- circulation only** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **John Sweeney** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **A** | **A** | **P** |
| **Frances Brown** | **p** | **P** | **A** | **P** | **A** | **A** | **A** |  |
| **Eleanor Maxwell** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** |
| **Maureen Harcombe** | **P** | **A** | **A** | **P** | **P** | **A** | **P** | **A** |
| **Madeleine Connor** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** | **Resigned** |  |  |
| **John McCarney** |  |  |  |  | **P** | **P** | **P** | **A** |
| **Siobhan Anderson** |  |  |  |  | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** |
| **Margaret Ross** |  |  |  |  | **P** | **P** | **P** | **A** |
| **Vincent Smith** |  |  |  |  | **P** | **P** | **P** | **P** |
| **Danny McKendry****Representing St Bridget’s, Eaglesham** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **P** |

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|  | **Attendance and apologies** | **Actions** |
|  | See front page.  |  |
|  | **Church Synod - background** | **Actions** |
|  | Peter outlined the current position**Overview of Synod**This is to determine the future direction of the Church worldwide. It is firstly a spiritual process and participation should be an act of faith with our responses about our experiences of the church guided by the Holy SpiritWe have been asked to address two questions:* How is this journey together happening today in our Church?
* What steps does the spirit invite us to take to grow in our journeying together?

**Paisley Diocese**Peter attended Diocesan meeting of Pastoral Council Chairs in November. A large volume of information was provided at that time with PC Chairs asked to return to their Parishes and plan an engagement process with Parishioners. **St Joseph’s response**St Joseph’s formed a small sub-group (Peter, Eleanor, Vincent and Ali) which met on three occasions in January to discuss the Parish response. This included a final meeting with Msgr Denis Carlin and June Clunie from the Diocesan Office to address some questions raised during previous discussions including specific concerns around:* Timescales as the response has to be submitted to the Diocese by end March 2022.
* Risk that a rushed process would not engage those who are least likely to response and whose experiences are a crucial part of our response
* Engagement may require facilitation skills, given that conversations may be challenging. Diocesan facilitation support was available for Parish events but no facilitation training was available for Parishes.
* Concern that there was no “Once for Scotland” approach co-ordinated across all Diocese
* Concern about duplication of effort by Parishes within the Diocese if resources were not shared.

The group reviewed Diocesan activity across Scotland 3 specific areas were identified that would provide support: * Motherwell Diocese with a strong focus on meetings
* Galloway Diocese who had developed very helpful web-based resources including an on-line questionnaire and 10 short videos exploring the 10 questions within the on-line questionnaire.
* Sacred Heart Jesuit Church in Edinburgh which has developed a face-to-face structured engagement process focused on recording responses rather then a debate/ discussion process.

Peter highlighted the current environment within the Church with reduced numbers attending Mass and the need to reach out to those who attended pre-covid who have not returned. He also highlighted that the impact of the synod will continue long after our work finishes, and that in the limited time available, a pragmatic approach was required. Eleanor described a webinar held by Rafael Luciali on the Synodal process which emphasised the need to listen to the reasons for people not returning and that this may be uncomfortable listening.  |  |
|  | **Proposed steps**  | **Actions** |
|  | * Communications for parishioners on the purpose of the Synod, including document summaries developed by Peter, and information on how to participate in clear non-technical language via:
	+ website, bulletin, FaceBook, Twitter
	+ Fr Stephen to include information about the Synod during his homilies over the next few weeks

 Peter advised that support for this would be very welcome.**Action:** All members to contact Peter if they can help support communications* At the meeting with Msgr Denis and June Clunie, it was agreed the Galloway Diocese questionnaire, available on the Paisley Diocese website for downloading, would be adapted to enable on-line responses. Permission has also been given by Galloway Diocese to upload their explanatory videos to the Paisley Diocese website.
	+ Link from St Joseph’s website and FB page to the questionnaire and videos on the Paisley Diocesan website
* Hold a Parish face-to-face event for all parishioners of St Joseph’s who wish to respond in person, including ensuring inclusion of those without access to internet. Msgr Denis and June Clunie will attend to facilitate. This would be based on the model used by Sacred Heart involving 10 stations with facilitators and scribes at each station to accurately record responses. They would not participate in discussion or debate to ensure this is inclusive and that all voices are heard. The Church offers more space than the hall.

**Action:** Peter to contact Msgr Denis about a date w/b 14th or 21st February to hold the evening meeting**Action:** Peter to request volunteers to act as scribes and facilitators**Children and Young People**A separate Diocesan approach is planned for children. It was agreed this would mean the Parish response would not reflect the views of a large part of our community if they are not engaged in this process. Canon Stephen agreed to approach head teachers to discuss how best to address this, potentially attending school assemblies to speak directly to pupils. Siobhan suggested pathways such as school Twitter feeds, What’s App groups and e-mail distribution lists including links to the on-line questionnaire to ensure parents are also involved. **Action:** Canon Stephen will follow up with schools**Action:** Siobhan will raise other communication opportunities with Fr Stephen to ensure children and their parents know the routes through which they can participate.**Reaching out**It is essential that the Synod involves everyone and that everyone has the opportunity to be heard. Concerns were raised about the risk of many Catholics who are not regular attendees at Church being excluded from this process. The Link distribution list has helped St Joseph’s to maintain contact with Parishioners throughout the last 2 years. A Link letter could be distributed to Parishioners to advise of the Synod. This could be a further step in the process of re-establishing the Link magazine to build up our local communities.It was agreed to establish a small group to look at the possibility of producing and distributing a Synod Link letter; explore how to developed stronger local community links and potentially re-establish the Link approach. In the short term, to promote opportunities for those who do not currently attend church to participate in the Synod response, the option of asking Parishioners to take copies of questionnaires to family, friends and neighbours was noted. **Action:** Eleanor, Vincent and John will establish a short-term group to discuss the possibility of a Synod Link newsletter and in the longer term, how to revitalise the Link as a way to connecting with previous, existing and new parishioners.  | **ALL****PMcM****PMcM****Canon S****SA****EM/VS****/JS** |
|  | **Post-meeting note** | **Actions** |
|  | The option of Pastoral council members speaking after Mass to keep the congregation updated about steps to respond within the parish was raised. |  |
|  | **Actions** | **Actions** |
|  | **Action:** All members to contact Peter if they can help support communications**Action:** Peter to contact Mgr Denis about a date w/b 14th or 21st February to hold the evening meeting**Action:** Peter to request volunteers to act as scribes and facilitators**Action:** Fr Stephen will follow up with schools**Action:** Siobhan will raise other communication opportunities with Fr Stephen to ensure children and their parents know the routes through which they can participate.**Action:** Eleanor, Vincent and John will establish a short-term group to discuss the possibility of a Synod Link newsletter and in the longer term, how to revitalise the Link as a way to connecting with previous, existing and new parishioners. | **ALL****PMcM****PMcM****Fr S****SA****EM/VS/****JS** |