

Meeting on Tuesday 30 May 2023
Parish Councils of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Parishes

Present: Fr. John McGinley
Kathleen Halpin
Honor Hania
Anne Heron
Marie Brown
Anne Marie Dumigan
Christine Totten
Pat McBride
Alan Bennett
Geraldine Coyle
Colette McArthur

Also present: David Killin Mary Milne and Jim Brown

Apologies: Catherine Boyle

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Honor welcomed all to the meeting and we in turn introduced ourselves. Fr. McGinley led us in the opening prayer.

Deanery

David Killin is the lay representative for St. Mary's Parish on the recently formed Deanery Council which covers seventeen parishes from Clydebank to Rosneath. Mary Milne represents St. Joseph's on the Deanery Council. Dean of the council is Fr. Aidan Martin of St. Stephen's.

David gave a presentation following the initial meeting which was held on 8 May in St. Michael's Dumbarton. Our deanery has chosen St. Columba Missionary and Evangelizer to be our patron. Within the deanery our parishes are linked with St. Stephen's and St. Patrick's and these parishes will increasingly work together.

The first meeting of the Deanery Council looked primarily at **Evangelisation**. How can we evangelise in the current time to bring renewal to our parishes and parishioners? This will involve developing the faith of practising parishioners, reaching out to baptised Catholics who no longer practise and in the longer term to those of no faith.

People need to feel welcome in our churches and there should be opportunities for involvement in both church and social activities.

How can we reach out to people of all ages to make them feel welcome and important in our parishes?

Deanery parishes will need to **Collaborate** to work together to support each other to build communities of faith and worship. We will need to look at **Resources** of people, finances and buildings to ascertain the best means of progress.

Obviously this initiative will be ongoing for a long time but Archbishop Nolan is anxious that there is no delay in getting started.

The next meeting of the Deanery Council is scheduled to take place on Monday 5 June at St. Michael's. It is intended to have meetings in each parish ideally before the end of June to give parishioners an opportunity to discuss the way ahead.

Redecoration of St. Mary's

Jim Brown distributed a handout which provides full details of the proposed work, costs and timescale. The church will be closed for approximately six weeks and all Masses and services during this period will be held in St. Joseph's commencing with the Vigil Mass on 1st July. Although we have a healthy building fund at the moment further financial support will be required and an appeal will be launched. Further information will be advised in the weeks ahead.

There are other works which will require to be tackled in the future e.g. belfry and railings around the perimeter of the church but these are not included in this project.

Evangelisation

Comments relating to this have already been included under the **Deanery** heading but it should be noted that we need parishioners to come forward to offer assistance and participation in the life of the church. Fr. McGinley has approached some who are considering if they are able to become Eucharistic Ministers. Other roles are available too.

Other Business

Marie Brown reminded everyone that there is a Parish Dance in St. Mary's Hall on Saturday 17 June at 8pm and it is hoped that it is well supported.

Safeguarding

Anne Heron confirmed that all matters are up to date at present. All Eucharistic Ministers will require to undergo safeguarding measures as required by the archdiocese.

Membership of Councils

Fr. McGinley has now been in the parishes for six months and can now appoint new members to the parish councils. Current members may continue and are able to suggest others to fill vacancies.

Meeting concluded with a prayer led by Fr. McGinley.