

ARCHDIOCESE OF GLASGOW
SOUTH DEANERY COUNCIL MEETING

7pm on Tuesday 5 September in St James' the Great Parish Hall

Belltrees Road, Pollock G53 5TE

Minutes of Meeting

Apologies

Apologies were received from St Leo's, St Gabriel's and Fr Gallacher (Christ the King)

1. Welcome and Prayer

Fr Martin Kane, Dean, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Minutes of previous meeting of Deanery Council

These had been circulated and were approved without amendment.

3. "Keeping up the Momentum" –

Fr Martin reminded the Council of the principles and practices outlined in the document from the Archdiocese.

4. Pastoral Areas

Functions

There was discussion on the purposes of Pastoral Areas. It was agreed that these were to act as a forum for considering the future structure and organisation of the Church. Pastoral Areas will be the local sources of advice on the future organisation of the Church in that area. Their purposes are:

- a) To act as a forum for discussion on enhancing coordination among parishes;
- b) To establish appropriate patterns and timings of Masses across the area;
- c) To facilitate discussion on matters of mutual interest, eg in relation to programmes such as RCIA, Church ministries (eg music); etc.
- d) To facilitate inter-church dialogue in the local area.
- e) To act as local support groups for priests, religious and laity in areas such as hospital chaplaincy, visiting homes for the elderly and infirm, etc
- f) To advise the Deanery and the Archdiocese on the future needs of the Church locally. This will take account of the functions of the Church in relation to Mass centres, buildings, priest numbers, etc.
- g) To support the Archdiocese in appropriate leadership and management of church matters within the resources available.
- h) To undertake any other such duties or responsibilities which will advance the mission of the Church in the area.

This implies that the Pastoral Areas will offer advice to the Deanery on matters of parish re-organisation where this is necessary. This will be advice on mergers, closures and other arrangements within the resources available to the Pastoral Area.

Areas

The Deanery Council reflected on the optimum model of Pastoral Areas. After considerable discussion it was agreed to have 5 Pastoral Areas as follows:

Area 1 Holy Cross, Bl Duns Scotus, St Brigid's, St Helen's,

Area 2 Christ the King, St Margaret Mary's, St Bartholomew's

Area 3 St Albert's, OL & St George's, OL of Lourdes, St Constantine's, St Anthony's, St Leo's

Area 4 St Robert's, St Bernard's, St Conval's, St James, Mill Hill, (Syro-Malabar) Mission

Area 5 St Mary Immaculate, Holy Name, St Gabriel's, St Vincent's

5. Setting up a Working Group for future work

The Council had discussions on the membership of The Working Group that will be tasked to consider the future needs of the Church in the Deanery and to report to the Deanery Council and the Archdiocese on recommendations for the future provision of parishes, priests and buildings within the Deanery.

The **members** appointed according to the guidelines from the Archdiocese including representatives from each Pastoral Area were:

Fr Martin Kane (Dean), Bart McGettrick (Co-Chair), Fr David Wallace, Fr John Carroll, Mrs Grace Cohen, Mr Jim Griffin.

The **remit** of this Group is to consider:

- *How many parishes are needed to serve the mission of Evangelisation?*
- *How should the allocated number of priests be distributed across these parishes? This discussion needs to reflect the distribution of priests as suggested previously.*
- *How many buildings are needed to serve the Church's mission of evangelisation?*
(From Archdiocesan Advice)

This Working Group would report to the Deanery Council by mid-November and to the Archdiocese by 30 November.

6. Responses from Pastoral Areas by 9 October

The Pastoral areas were reminded that there should be a report submitted to the Dean by the end of September on the issues mentioned in Part Four of the document, “Keeping up The Momentum.”

In considering these issues, Fr Ian Bathgate commented that evangelisation must be a practical expression of faith undertaken through working with groups in the community. The first apostles proclaimed “good news” by example and by witness. In any pastoral development this sense of fostering and promoting relationships should be central, and any future developments should encourage and promote our coming together to work, build and promote.

He also recognised that while “economics” is not the primary pastoral driving force behind our presence and activity, it cannot be disregarded although it may well limit or restrict our physical opportunities. If our focus is evangelisation, the logistical realities of the continuous reduction of the number of priests and matters such as economics should still be secondary to the drive to share, proclaim and connect with folk. Changes in parish structures should only be acceptable if these were a logical or direct consequence of effective evangelisation eg through greater engagement in groups. The needs in his parishes were dealing with the sick, the poor, alcoholics, one-parent families, etc. These must be the priorities for the Church in his area.

7. AOCB

- a) A request was made that we have a complete list of members of the Deanery Council, including email addresses.
- b) A question arose about the future of St Albert’s Parish. It was noted that there has been a history to discussions about the future, but as far as the Deanery Council is concerned it will be considered within the process that has been established.

8. Date of Next Meeting

This will be agreed by email and information sent as soon as possible.