
St Brides Parish, West Kilbride

Minutes of Parish Meeting on 21st June 2021



24 Parishioners attended: Fr. McVicar and R Hamill were also present.

Apologies received: Paul McNulty, Jo Gibson, Nicola McCoy and Pauline Taylor

Betty Orr, Chairperson of the Parish Council, welcomed all and hoped after Covid-19 we would again be a community coming together, closer to God, continuing our friendships and enjoying fun times. The new SYCAMORE Project would be the basis of taking us down the road to the future.

Peter McCluskie said our opening prayer.

Laura McLean and Peter would spearhead the Project in the parish and introduce it to all present

Father McVicar outlined his COVID 19 experience, saying how strange it was to say Mass in a near-empty church and how it brought home the importance of our community in celebrating Mass. He also revealed that the diocesan showed that only 7% actively go to Mass, support meetings, and contribute financially. 11% are lost and will not return and 82% represent those who come sometimes: Baptisms, First Holy Communions, Christmas etc. This is where we have the biggest challenge in how to get them back and rebuild the community. There are no obvious answers, just a slow inexorable drift, with Covid 19 accelerating the issue. It was suggested that a possible return to Adoration, perhaps the Rosary before the Tuesday or Friday Mass or Prayer of the Church which is usually said by the Priest but is open to all. After further discussion, consideration will be given to preferences.

Sycamore Project

A new programme of evangelisation consisting of 20 films that explore and challenge Christian believers from: how can I find true happiness, what is the meaning of life and does God exist? It is a 20-module programme, suitable for all ages. It reflects the wisdom of the broad Christian tradition and a useful tool for those of a different tradition and background. It is designed for people who care about Evangelism. Participants would invite people to share a bite to eat and a discussion about faith using the Sycamore Project resources. The intention is to establish a small group of leaders who will promote it in their local parish. It is hoped that this will start later this year. The youth of the parish will be fundamental in taking this forward and a book entitled YouCat has been written with them in mind. Copies can be ordered from Laura.

Questions

Father Duncan invited questions / comments.

Sunday Mass time is too late.

Fr Duncan advised that other times were being explored but we had to bear in mind timings at St Peter's and the availability of the Parish Priest. Debate on times were well documented via Bulletin, email, letters and the Parish Website. Live streaming from St Peters proved very popular. The Saturday Vigil Mass was poorly attended and could not be justified. Options were offered at St Mary's and St Peter's. Other points noted as possible barriers to getting people to return to Mass were; no children's liturgy, Mass now being streamed which is possibly more convenient for some people and a reluctance to phone to book Mass. There is a huge shortage of priests with currently no chaplain at Crosshouse Hospital. We are so extremely fortunate to have two weekday masses which are celebrated by Father Gerry, a retired priest currently living in the Chapel House.

Father Duncan summed up by asking us to get together with friends and family to discuss Sycamore and how best we can take it forward. Everyone is at different stages of their faith. We must help each other to find what we are looking for.

Martin Walsh kindly offered the Parish a TV for use in the hall. Costings are to be explored to buy a smart TV, compatible with the projector, for use in the church. Joe McAleavy to follow up.

Betty thanked everyone for coming and reminded us of lovely social events we have had and hoped we can look forward to them again sooner than later.
