

## MINUTES OF SANDYMOUNT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AGM – 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016.

The meeting was opened with a welcome & introduction by Chairperson, Peter Carvill, followed by a Prayer led by Deirdre Farrell.

The Minutes of the 2015 AGM were read to the meeting by Treasa McInerney. Tony Reid commented that a comment that “nothing ever changes” was not recorded. Treasa said it was covered but the meeting complained that the absence of a microphone, previously suggested, made it difficult to hear her. A request for a ‘mike’ was repeated. Also Peter said that the new Guidelines would address other issues repeated in the past. A complaint was made the minutes were not circulated prior to the meeting as promised. Peter apologised & said they would, in future, be published within a few weeks of next AGM or shortly after the actual AGM. Minutes were accepted as read, proposed by Ann Evers and seconded by Elma Holohan.

Peter Carvill delivered his Chairman’s report on activities in the Parish during the previous year.

Fr John delivered his Parish Priest’s report, outlining numbers attending Mass now v in 2011 (the drop accounted for mainly by deaths). His address was on the “Church of the Present”, saying there were major changes coming. He ended by thanking all who work in the service of the Parish in varied roles, especially those leaving the Parish Council after 5 years and complimented Janet Daly on the “fantastic Parish Website”. He stressed the need for the Parish Council to help develop laity, lead prayers and encourage communication in resolving issues within the Diocese.

The Chairman requested members of the Council to make separate presentations as follows:

**FAITH DEVELOPMENT:** Deirdre Farrell stressed importance of strengthening our faith & coming together to share it. She reported that the 3 Advent talks were informative and advised that Advent prayer “vespers” were planned in November/December. Sr. Felicia outlined plans for this.

**REVIEW OF PRIORITIES & SUBCOMMITTEES:** Mark Cunningham reported that these included Communications, Liturgical matters, including Baptism/Funeral teams to assist the priests, Faith development, Youth/youth development, organisation structuring/clustering.

**ECUMENICAL ACTIVITIES:** Anngret Simms reported on “Explorers” talks on St Paul’s letters to the Romans which were very interesting & encouraged all to join the group.

**CHILD SAFEGUARDING:** Elma Holohan informed that Garda vetting was now reserved for people who work with children only. 56 people attended training to date. Another day will be planned in 2017. Paddy Kavanagh asked the council for attention to children especially at Children’s Mass, needing to use the toilets. He stressed this must be taken seriously. Peter Carvill said we must insist that a parent accompany the child. This should be announced before Masses.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Gearoid Byrne, chair of Parish Finance Committee, thanked Tadgh Twomey, Mary O’Neill and Mark Cunningham for their work in preparing accounts to end Dec ’15 which will be circulated asap. Income/Expenditure largely unchanged. The new accounting system will ensure greater accuracy. Tony Reid reiterated the discomfort of the Hall used for AGMs. Fr John said we had to use the one available as we’ve no Parish Centre. Tony asked if one could be pursued.

Fr John said “yes” but it’s a question for the Finance Committee. The logic of grouping 20 parishes for financial planning was raised. Fr John/Gearoid will raise this.

**REVISED WELCOME LEAFLET:** Copies circulated by Peter Carvill.

**PROPOSAL OF NEW GUIDELINES FOR PPC:** Peter introduced these and asked for AGM’s approval before sending to Diocese for final approval. They will need to be constantly reviewed. He thanked Paddy Kavanagh for reading draft & commenting but said that further comments could not be taken. He asked the meeting to accept them, and they be put on our website & bulletin. Mark Cunningham proposed acceptance & Anngret Simms seconded. Vote was carried by all but one.

**ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS;**

4 nominees: Ali Pigot, Janet Daly, Karen Hickey, Gerry Lincoln; proposed by Treasa McInerney & seconded by Gerry Hession. The new nominees were approved with 1 dissenting vote. Joe McElvaney was co-opted by Fr. John. Next Meeting: 5.12.16.

**QUESTIONS & DISCUSSIONS:**

Must members retire after 3 years?

Paddy Kavanagh added his condolences to the family of the late Fr Martin and welcomed Fr Padraic.

Tony Reid proposed a thanks to everybody associated with parish work and looks forward to more communication over the next year.

The question of getting greater numbers to attend AGMs was discussed. Treasa McInerney suggested having them before the weather turned to “dead of Winter”. Peter said that November was in Guidelines but Fr John said that could be changed.

Meeting then closed. Teas were served by Mary Carvill later.