

**Parish Council Meeting
Immaculate Conception Church
Tuesday 8 November 2022**

Present: Michael Boyle, Pauline Bradshaw, Anne Cannon, Michael Cannon, Iona Craig, Fr Jim Lawlor, Eileen Low, Margaret Lynch, Catherine McGhie, Jacqui Sim and Frances Toner.

Apologies: Stephen Hayes, Julie Hughes and Brian Martin.

1. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) – St Aloysius Church.

Father Jim welcomed Kevin and Juliette volunteers from St Aloysius ESOL classes. Kevin outlined the growth of the classes that started 6 years ago with 3 refugees/asylum seekers and currently has over 100 students and 35 volunteers. Demand is such that there are now people on a waiting list some of whom live in Maryhill/Summerston. It was agreed that there was potential for the Immaculate Conception offering similar classes if we were able to recruit sufficient volunteers. Kevin confirmed that they would be happy to help with lesson plans etc. Father Jim thanked Kevin and Juliette for their time and helpful input.

2. Together We make Maryhill (TWMM).

Iona provided an update on progress over the first year of TWMM. There are now 750 people, on the data base and 550 on the mailing list for the bulletin. A significant number of church and community events have taken place – weekly community breakfast, monthly men's breakfast, litter picking, boat trips, a pop-up event at ASDA and most recently the Warm Welcome initiative. Future developments include Christians Against Poverty (CAP) providing information sessions and working with the Lillias Centre, the new Maryhill custodial centre, for women close to release. A particular priority will be to develop programmes for young people. Iona expressed her thanks for the friendship and support given to her over the last year.

3. Parish Groups.

Given the small number in attendance full updates on all parish groups were not possible. Brief updates were provided on:

Children's' Liturgy – Has restarted with 4 new volunteers. The numbers have fluctuated with 40 children there on 6 November.

Hall - There had been a significant increase in the use of the hall and following the recent renovations more will be done to promote the availability of both the hall and SPRED rooms.

Meditation - Recommenced on 7 November with 8 participants.

R.C.I.A. - The programme has commenced with 12 candidates whose ages range from 18 to 40.

Sacramental - One hundred and four children are now registered and more are expected. The children come from our 2 local schools plus 12 other schools.

Safeguarding – A training session took place at the Immaculate Conception for volunteers from a number of parishes. Two training sessions were needed and the second one will take place in the new year.

Social - The parish dance on 5 November was a great success with tickets sold out in 2 days.

SPRED – Now restarted after Covid. A second group is still to be set up.

SVDP - Support had continued to be provided during Covid. No meetings were currently taking place due to lack of volunteers.

Youth - Four young parishioners will be attending the World Youth Day in Lisbon next July/August. The parish will support them with fundraising events. It is hoped to get a small group of young parishioners together to organise activities for young people.

4. Fabric and Finance.

Thanks to the continuing generosity of parishioners, we are in a comfortable position financially with £65,000 in the parish account and £22,000 in the renovation account. This week £15,000 had been paid towards the archdiocesan levy with £30,000 still to be paid. Estimates are currently being sought to re-alarm the buildings. Repairs to the front stairs of the church are also being investigated

5. Pastoral Planning.

The first draft of the parish calendar is now available. The opening page will outline our priorities for the next year which are – (a) to take seriously the opportunity to reflect on our life as a parish family – (b) to take seriously the challenge to look more closely at our mission statement and to take seriously the invitation and desire to reach out to all to ensure everyone knows that when we say ALL are welcome, we mean ALL. The major events over the year were highlighted:

December – Advent Appeal (foodbank), Normal Christmas Services.

January – Church Unity Week.

February – Lent.

March – Saint Patrick's Dance.

April – Sacred Triduum.

May -First Communions.

June – Fete & BBQ.

July – Retreat at Schoenstatt.

August – Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady.

September – Together We Make Maryhill 2nd birthday. Three day retreat for 40 hours.

October – Halloween Dance, Autumn retreat with Ignatius Spirituality Centre.

November – Review Planning, Monthly Remembrance.

6. Parish Coordinating Team.

Eileen Low described the work of the Parish Coordinating Team which deals with a wide range of parish activities from the minibus to TWMM events. The current team has been in place for 12 months, so a quarter are now due to demit office. Three people have indicated they wish to step down.

It was felt the new members should be more representative of the whole parish. A few suggestions were made on the best way to recruit both new members for the PCT and new volunteers. Two possibilities might be "sign up" Sunday or circulating with the bulletin a request for people to consider volunteering. The next PCT meeting will be early in the new year.

Father Jim thanked everyone for their attendance.