

**PARISH OF SAINT HELEN  
LANGSIDE  
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

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**TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> September'21**

**7.30PM**

**ST. HELEN'S CHURCH HALL**

**FIRST MINUTED MEETING SINCE JANUARY 2020**

**1. WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER**

**2. PRESENT:** Monsignor Paul, Attracta O'Reilly, Clare Gonella, Grace Cohen, Jackie Black & Pat Weatherall

**APOLOGIES:** Deacon Kevin Kelly & Chiara Piacentini

**3. BRIEF REVIEW – SEPTEMBER'21**

**a)** Thanks to Pat Weatherall for her contribution during restrictions – taking telephone bookings for parishioners who could not access Eventbrite to book Masses.

**b)** Numbers attending Saturday morning Mass at 10.00am are gradually increasing, as are weekday Masses, however, Sunday Mass attendance is only 50% at present. Obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. However, depending on the situation regarding Covid 19 it may be lifted on the First Sunday in Advent '21.

**c)** There is a cleaning routine in place, twice weekly, to keep Church clean and sanitised. Rota for use of 'fogger' and parish volunteers is in place. Need more volunteers to use fogger to clean church. Possible plea for volunteers in bulletin.

**4. MOVING FORWARD – OCTOBER 2021.... AND BEYOND**

**a)** October, month of the Rosary. It is hoped there will be October Devotions one evening during the week. Monsignor Paul to approach Deacon Kevin to ask if he might contribute to devotions.

November, Parish Mass for all our loved ones who have died is now to take place on All Souls Day (2nd November) at 7.00pm, a change to the original date agreed of Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November, following further reflection by Monsignor Paul regarding the appropriateness of an extra Mass on this Universal Liturgical Feast, (there will also be the regular Mass, on this day, at 10.00am). Resources were discussed, arrangements for evening Mass to be made nearer the date.

**b)** Presently parishioners are checking themselves in at weekend Masses either electronically or by completing a Attendee Card. As a result of this volunteer numbers at each Mass have been reduced. Volunteers to guide parishioners in procedure at the doors and to continue to sit at the front of the church in case they are needed. Volunteers not on duty on a specific date are asked to be on 'stand by' to cover for emergencies. PPC members will continue to oversee the smooth running of check ins. Attendees should be encouraged to sign in electronically.

**c)** Needs of the Parish – No strategic planning possible yet until the situation regarding Covid 19 settles, it maybe some time after Christmas 2021

**5. LITURGY**

**a)** A rota for readers, Monday to Saturday, is established. Need to firm up rota for weekend Masses.

**b)** There is a need to re-establish a rota for Eucharistic Ministers particularly for weekend Masses. Hopefully a volunteer to do this Rota will be found ASAP.

## 6. PARISH GROUPS

a) **SSVP** reported they have 2 new members, bringing a total of 8 members to St. Helen's. Communicate regularly with housebound by telephoning and delivering bulletins and Catholic literature when available. Several elderly parishioners are unable to attend Mass due to mobility issues therefore communication from SSVP members is welcomed. Deacon Kevin assists SSVP by taking communion to the housebound.

## 7. AOCB

**Below are comments from the suggestion box and comments passed on verbally (a-d)**

a) Too many volunteers? - this point was discussed earlier on in the meeting, and outcome recorded (see 4.b. of Minutes)

b) Moving forward with Children's Liturgy and other activities? – Hall, at present, needs repair to ceiling and possibly painted. Safer not to be used at present.

c) Why does the Church close after 9am during period before 11am Masses on Sundays? - Church closes to allow changeover in volunteers, there are different volunteer teams for each Mass, who are required for supervision inside the church when it is open, as advised by the Bishops' Conference of Scotland Infection Control Group guidelines during the continuing Covid 19 Pandemic situation.

d) Acknowledgement of 'peace be with you' – Remaining and updated Covid 19 restrictions required during the Sacred Liturgy and advised by the Bishops' Conference of Scotland Infection Control Group still currently do not allow the Sign of Peace – as expressed customarily by the congregation 'shaking hands'.

e) Confessions will be heard in the Meeting Room, next to the Sacristy, on Thursday evenings at 6.00pm, instead of the Porch area at the back of the church.

## 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021. 7.30pm. Church Hall.

## 9. Closing Prayer & Blessing