**Deanery Council Report**



 The Report below, from our Deanery Council meeting, has been issued and sent to the Archdiocese. This is the outcome of a Deanery meeting in May held at St Ninian’s, Kirkintilloch, where there was the opportunity for all parishes to feed in their views. All parishes will now be split into Pastoral Areas based on local geography with St Joseph’s and St Andrew’s forming a Pastoral Area. In due course, a series of meetings, effectively resurrecting previous cluster meetings, will take place to explore working more closely together. It was agreed that the Deanery report would be shared wider with the Parish, hard copy and online, after clarification of one key point on whether any decisions have been taken about Pastoral groups becoming Parishes in due course. The Dean has clarified that no decision has been taken on that. Regular updates following Deanery Council and Pastoral Area meetings will be made to the parish.

 **“Looking to the Future”**

 **East Dunbartonshire Deanery Report**

On Friday 26th May, 2023, Suzanne Boyle (CO-Chair) and Fr John G Campbell(Dean and Chair) met to synthesise the Deanery Council meeting, which was held on Monday 22nd May 2023 in Holy Family and Saint Ninian’s Hall.

All future meetings will take place in St Ninian’s, and we thank the parishioners for their welcome and hospitality.  This synthesis will be presented to the Archdiocese as our Deanery Report for this initial Deanery Council Meeting.

In general, we felt the meeting went well and people were approaching the future with a positive attitude and a desire to cooperate for the good not only of our own parishes but for the good of the Diocese in general.

Our people, not only on this council but in our parishes know that change is inevitable.
Having reminded ourselves of the purpose of the Deanery Council, a discussion ensued around the three topics proposed by the Archdiocese all of which were addressed over the past weeks in our own parishes.

After this discussion, we decided to place our Deanery under the patronage of Saint Margaret of Scotland.

Suzanne Boyle, St Ninian’s, was nominated as co-chair and Sandra McGeachie, Sacred Heart, as minute secretary.  Due to the geography of our Deanery, establishing pastoral areas and partnerships was a forgone conclusion, except for the greater Cumbernauld area.

We have arranged that the five parishes (Cumbernauld, Croy & Condorrat) would meet at a later date to look at this further.

**Pastoral Area Groups**

• Saint Andrew’s & Saint Joseph’s Milngavie.

• Saint Dominic’s & Saint Matthew’s

• Holy Family & Saint Ninian’s, Saint Fannan’s & Saint John of the Cross.

• Sacred Heart, Saint Joseph’s, Saint Lucy’s, Our Lady & Saint Helen’s & Holy Cross.

**Evangelisation**

Everyone agreed about the need for evangelisation and indeed there was a positive attitude towards it. However, as the discussion progressed it was apparent that re-evangelisation was actually what everyone was talking about.

It was more comfortable talking about faith with people we have something in common with i.e., the lapsed, other Christians.

Our schools were felt to be a place where resources to re-evangelise should be directed and efforts redoubled.

People felt they were still trying to rebuild their parishes after the pandemic: socially, liturgically and financially. Perhaps in time they would have the confidence to be more outward looking.

It was also suggested we could be more visible in our communities: pop in centres, cafes etc to engage the local community in our buildings.

The use of outdoor/visible events and social media were all spoken of as vehicles for evangelisation.

We need outside help to evangelise- how do we do it? What do we do? What format should it take?

**Collaboration**

There are examples in our own Deanery of it working well. However, it was felt it works well because of necessity.

We still need to lose our parochialism. Every parish will be at a different stage in their understanding of this journey.

It was keenly felt that collaboration over Mass times in the summer needed to be a priority in order to allow the clergy their annual leave.

Collaboration in inter parish groups such as catechesis, RCIA, Bereavement Support, Justice & Peace & Third World Group could be a start.

On a more formal note, collaboration at a Deanery level may be advantageous in terms of youth ministry, admin support and procurement.

It was also felt that we should be honest in stating that collaboration is an easing into unity. Pastoral groups will one day in the future, (at a time determined by the parish itself) become one parish.

**Resources**

People are our biggest resource: our people and our clergy.

In supporting our human resources and giving confidence to outreach training is vital for laity, deacons and priests.

This is a new way of being church. We need help in losing baggage and old ideas and help in embracing new ways of doing things.

It was felt that Deacons are a greater benefit to our parishes when they are resident within the parish.

**8th June 2023**