



Caritas Minutes 27th September 2017

Present: Fr. Daniel; Catherine McGrath; Betty McGachey; Betty Livingstone; Mattie McPhee; Hugh Crainey; Kathie Crainey; Anne Kerr; Pat Fox; Joan Forster.

Opening prayer led by Fr. Daniel.

Apologies: Rosalind Montgomery; Anne Collins; John Trower; Gerry Dailly.

Fr. D handed out agenda and welcomed the representatives from the Women's Guild and the Men's Group. He explained that the Caritas Group meets every few months and was set up as an umbrella group that allows active groups in the Parish to come together, share information and support each other's efforts. The Caritas Group also organise talks and presentations for the Parish.

Previous minutes: Corrections – SCIAF – coffee morning should be held on a Sunday to boost numbers; Life group – this title covers SPUC and Pro-life without being political.

Group updates:

Legion of Mary – K.C: Going well. 6 active members visit between 6 and 9 people per week. Legion of Mary members are in a good position to refer people to SVDP, Foodbank etc. for any additional support that may be required.

Dementia Group – P.F: The group which runs every Wednesday afternoon, has a very happy ambience. On average 25 attendees per week. This includes carers. There is a good variety of activities on offer. The group organised a boat trip on 9th Sept and a presentation from the Historical Society has been organised for the 11th Oct. The Men's Group are hosting a Christmas Dinner on 18th Dec. The group will close for 2 weeks on 22nd Dec. The group is supported by Alzheimer Scotland. All welcome. A dementia diagnosis is not required. Isobel Hughes is stepping down from the group and P.F. has a holiday booked. Hugh Crainey said the Men's Group can assist if a representative from the Dementia Group comes along and specifies what help would be useful. Anne Kerr offered to lay out tables etc. on the Tuesday evening if this would be helpful.

SCIAF – C.McG: Looking towards Christmas, "real gifts" are being pushed this year. SCIAF logo being changed to incorporate International Caritas. C.McG asked if additional talks would be useful. (ie not just during Lent)

Bereavement – C.MG: Next meeting 18th Oct. A family had expressed disappointment that they had not received a visit from the group when they lost a loved one. C.McG said the group have to be invited by the family before a visit will take place. Fr. D thought a visit from Bereavement group or Legion of Mary was a good idea.

Life: - B.McG: There is a Candlelight Walk on Tues. 27th March in Glasgow at 7.00pm if anyone is interested. Fr. D offered the Church minibus if a driver can be found and there is enough of an uptake. Fr. D will advertise the walk in the newsletter.

CHAS - C.McG: Research has shown that, taking children from birth to 21, there are 14,500 families in Scotland affected by a life changing condition. This has put a huge amount of pressure on CHAS. As a result, they now train volunteers to care for the siblings of those affected by a condition. This is beneficial to the whole family. C.McG acknowledged the Women's Guild donation to CHAS and said that money and volunteers are essential to the work of the organisation.

Foodbank – P.F: The Foodbank is running well and there is an emergency box for SVDP in the vestry. Fr. D expressed gratitude to Jim Hughes who regularly uplifts the boxes at the Church entrances and delivers them to the Kilsyth Foodbank.

Fr. D was very pleased with the £1000 collection and donation of 400 bags for Mary's Meals. He appreciates the parish always supports this charity very generously and regrets not having photographs taken.

Women's Guild – B.L. & M.McP: There are currently 50 members of the Guild ages ranging from 50 – 90. They keep in contact with other Women's Guilds and organise events and outings. They recently met up with Christ the King Women's Guild and had Afternoon Tea with the Canal Society. The next 2 outings are to Calders Garden Centre and to The Steamie. Calders Garden Centre in Kirkintilloch are offering an 'Open Evening' to groups where there will be "bubbly", tea and refreshments plus 20% discount on any purchases on 15th Nov. There is a list of what is happening on the Church Hall Noticeboard. The Women's Guild support a range of charities such as Strathcarron Hospice, Mary's Meals, and CHAS etc. They are having a Christmas Dinner on 5th Dec. The Women's Guild, previously known as the Union of Catholic Mothers, is celebrating 30 years next year. They plan to organise a formal celebration.

Men's Group – H.C: This group has been running for 1 ½ years and has between 22 and 24 members. It takes place on Monday mornings after morning Mass. It is open to all men in Kilsyth and surrounding areas, and is open to all ages and denominations. The group has a variety of activities, runs a monthly quiz and organises outings. Recently the group went on a canal trip and had a day at Hamilton Races. On 13th Oct they are going to Carfin Grotto and on the 18th Dec they are hosting a Christmas Dinner for themselves and other parishioners. They are also organising a trip the panto at the Kings. The Men's Group offer help to any other group or charity when needed. Requests for assistance are judged on merit and decisions are made by the whole group. Fr. D said our visiting Priest, Fr. Tom, had been very impressed by the Men's Group.

Future Talks / Activities: the following was agreed –

White Flower Appeal – 28th Oct. B.McG will give a talk at each Mass and the following will take collection at door. Vigil Mass – K.C. & B.McG. / 9.30am – C.McG & Alice Conway / 12.00 – J.F. & Betty

Gift Sunday – Dec. Donations will go to Cardinal Winning's Pro Life Initiative.

Fr. D is to ask parishioners to volunteer to support SVDP by making up Christmas hampers after 9.30am Mass on 3rd Sunday of Advent. Tea & toast will be provided.

The Midwives Talk – 24th Jan. 2018 – Mary Doogan is booked

Bereavement Talk – "How to arrange a funeral" – 28th Feb. C.McG.

Credit Union & Benefit Changes – 21st March - Gerry Dailly and Thomas Crainey (TBC)

CHAS – 16th March – C.McG.

A.K has noted the dates and will book the hall or notify Fr. D if any clashes.

AOCB

Fr. D said communication within the parish is an issue and so has established a new communication group who will develop a new website /Twitter /Facebook page. All groups will be able to forward relevant information to the new group to advertise their events.