

ST KESSOG'S PARISH MEETING

NOVEMBER 1st, 2022.

1. A Vibrant Parish

Fr. Jacob opened the meeting with a prayer and welcomed all present. He then expressed his deep wish for the creation of a more vibrant Parish within the churches of St Kessog's and St Anthony's and went on to discuss how we parishioners might make this happen. Suggestions and discussion were as follows:

Fr Jacob stressed that, especially in a small parish such as ours, it is incumbent on each and every one of us to somehow become involved in parish life. The needs of a parish go well beyond mere attendance at Sunday mass, as important as this may be.

On a Spiritual note, where at all possible, parishioners should endeavour to attend regular weekday masses ; to participate more fully in the preparation for and practice of the Holy Sacraments, (especially the sacrament of Reconciliation); to volunteer more readily for Liturgical readings, Children's Liturgy, the spiritual needs of the sick and elderly of our parish, parish retreats , pilgrimages, group meetings and so on..

We should likewise take greater responsibility for organising and encouraging parish groups, whether or not a priest's attendance is required. We should aim to reach out to the wider community and to this end Fr. Jacob suggested an early morning Mass for our young parishioners during Lent before school begins. We should encourage others to visit our churches, learning about their history etc. while simultaneously encouraging relationships with other churches. Fr. Jacob, for his part, will continue to liaise with Murdo Campbell at Strathblane Church of Scotland.

On a more practical level, the general maintenance of the parish also requires the commitment of all. Many parishioners already give of their time and energy and their efforts are greatly appreciated. These services range from church cleaning , flower arranging, financial admin, ground maintenance , through to proposing themes for spiritual reflection / Advent/ Lent. The list goes on. Everyone is encouraged to play an active part.

2. Remembrance Service

The **service will take place at the War Memorials at 11.00am on Sunday the 13th of November.** This is a joint service with Strathblane Church for the entire community. We will need a volunteer to lay a wreath on our behalf, Fr Jacob will be present. On that weekend Fr. Jacob will say **Mass on Saturday evening at St Anthony's at 5.30pm** and on **Sunday at 10.00 am** (instead of normal mass time of 11am) **at St Kessog's**, to allow everyone who can to attend the Remembrance.

3. Christmas Raffle

In the absence of Alan. Mirzi and Elaine have volunteered to help Fiona with the raffle. Donations of prizes will be most welcome. Elaine has offered to put together a hamper. Please put your name on the tickets and return the envelope with your donation to the Parish House. Fiona has very kindly offered to collect the envelopes and prizes for St Anthony's.

4. Advent and Christmas Services

Advent Reflection: to be communicated later

Confession: Every Saturday after 10am mass or by arrangement.

Fr Jacob encouraged parishioners to go to confession even in other parish where that is possible

Christmas Eve

St Anthony's Balfron: Carol singing at 5.30pm followed by **Mass at 6.00pm.**

St Kessog's Blanefield: Carol singing at 7.00pm followed by **Mass at 7.30pm.**

Christmas Day Masses will be at the normal times as it is a Sunday.

St Anthony's Balfron: 9.30am.

St Kessog's Blanefield: 11.00am.

5. AOB

Mirzi has offered to help with Parish Accounts. She will contact Eddie and George to arrange a meeting.