

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETINGS – SEPTEMBER 2013.
CASHEL OSSORY WATERFORD LEIGHLIN AND LISMORE

In The Heritage Council Headquarters, Kilkenny – Thursday 19th, September 2013

The Diocesan Magazine Committee is seeking funding for updating of the Diocesan Website. Synod 2012 had passed a Motion asking the Diocesan Magazine Committee to look at these issues. A Facebook has been set up which is progressing well.

Regarding the publication of the large publication *The Church Of Ireland History*, it was agreed that the Diocese was not in a position to purchase a quantity in advance.

Income & Expenditure Accounts for 2012: It was agreed as proposed that the Accounts be recommended to Synod for acceptance.

Budget for 2014: the figures were explained in detail and after examination Council accepted recommendation of the Diocesan Finance Committee. The extra pension cost of 4% was noted.

Assessments for 2014: Much discussion took place on these figures because of increased figures for certain Unions or Groups. However, as proposed that the Assessments for 2014 be accepted, and all subject to the Resolution passed at the Special Synod in Bunclody in May 2013.

Children's Officer: Successful Summer Camps in the Diocese; Building Blocks Conference in Dublin in October; Sunday School Teachers' Meeting, Safeguarding Trust 9th October both in Kilkenny.

Adult Education/CME: Exploring Advent Texts, 14th November in Carlow, Workshop on Suicide Awareness (Part 1) in conjunction with Console, December in Carlow, Making Space for Mary's Song, Dr L. Hall, Church of England, February 2014, Organ Train with Mark Duley, June 2014.

The Green Charter: The annual 2012/13 Competition is about to close. A special conference on the matter will take place in the Spring of 2014.

Bishops' Appeal: donations to BA are very slow this year. Total Figure for Diocese to date is €10,034. There was an appeal for parishes to consider more donations during the harvest season.

Link Diocese of Sodor & Man: Representatives from Sodor & Man will be present at both the Clerical Conference and the Diocesan Synod. The Revd T. Irvine had visited in August.

Glebe Reports:

re Kilkenny Union of Parishes: It was agreed as proposed that permission be given to Kilkenny Union Select Vestry for Kilkenny Archaeological to store artefacts in the basement of the Deanery, Kilkenny, subject to a yearly review and Kilkenny Archaeological to pay €1,000 per annum.

Vacancy Inspection for **Baltinglass Rectory**, Diocese of Leighlin has taken place.

The **new rectory in Stradbally, Co. Laois**, is proceeding and roof should be on by Christmas 2013.

All necessary Quinquennial Inspections are proceeding.

Structures agreed for the new Diocesan Glebes & Property Committees in this district (Cashel Ossory Leighlin Lismore & Waterford). Two committees to be set-up as per similar structures in Ferns.

Diocesan Property Committee: reported on were: Dunleckney Union - St Mary's Bagenalstown – various, also approval given for revised plans for new school to be built on glebe land.

Re Portlaoise & Ballyfin Union of Parishes: various items relating to the former Schoolteacher's Residence and the school recently vacated.

Church of Ireland Priorities Fund: Permission be given to the following to apply to the Priorities Fund: Kilkenny Union of Parishes, Lismore Union of Parishes, Waterford Union of Parishes, Tullow Group of Parishes, The Social Affairs sub-Committee, The Adult Education/CME Officer.

The Bolton Library, Cashel, Co. Tipperary: The Dean of Cashel and Bishop Burrows outlined the current position on the day to day running and maintenance of the building. Monies promised by the OPW some years ago never materialised and the building and its contents were visibly deteriorating. The transfer was agreed of the Bolton Collection to UL Library for proper care, conservation and scholarly access, subject to satisfactory leasing arrangements and a requirement that the University undertakes responsibility for the continuing exhibition of examples of the collection in Cashel.

The Very Revd Dr P. Knowles and the Revd Canon G. Cliffe, both retiring shortly, were thanked for their work and contribution to the life of the Diocese over the past years and on behalf of Council Bishop Burrows wished them many happy years of retirement.

FERNS - in St Mogue's Cottage, Ferns – Friday 13th September, 2013

Details of contributions to Bishops' Appeal (The Bishop confirmed that Valerie Power will continue in her role as representative in the Ferns area)

Recommendations from the Glebes and Property Committee: St Iberius Church, Wexford:

Serious defects had been discovered in the tower of the building that needed immediate attention.

Because of the Church's location on the Main Street it was considered to become a dangerous risk to the public. Therefore repair work had to begin right away.

Recommendations from Finance Committee: The Treasurer presented the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2012. He commended the Parishes for meeting their commitments as any money outstanding will be paid shortly. He then went through the budget for the year 2014. There would be an increase of c.4% in the cost of Clergy Pensions and also a small increase in the cost of the Episcopacy.

Parochial Assessments: Arising from agreement at the Special Synod in May, assessments will be calculated on the same basis throughout the Diocese in future. This will result in a fixed charge of €18,000 levied on each Union or Group with the remainder being calculated on a *per capita* basis.

National Ploughing Championships: The DCO Herbie Sharman gave a detailed report on the plans for the National Ploughing Championships to be held at Ratheniska, Stradbally, Co Laois, 24th -26th September: A double Stand had been acquired for this Ecumenical event with the theme "Together in Christ". A rota of clergy would be in attendance with the Bishops visiting when possible. A boat for cardboard fishes for prayers made by the local schoolchildren. and two formal times for prayer daily. There would also be a DVD running. Press releases had been circulated and Local Radio contacted. The Mothers' Union Stand would be again offering a baby changing service.

COMMON ITEMS OF AGENDA DISCUSSED AT BOTH MEETINGS

November Census as agreed at General Synod 2013: The Bishop explained that the purpose of this last item was to help the Church better understand trends in the Church of Ireland population and patterns of worship and Church observance. He also informed the meeting that he was allowing Garrett Casey from the RCB to explain the census in further detail at the Diocesan Synod in October. The Census, completely anonymous, to take place in churches in three Sundays in November.

Updated list of meetings of Diocesan Synods

Resource Group For Difficulties Encountered in To-Day's Society: It was reported that the committee set up to assist people experiencing difficulties in the current situation in rural Ireland was making progress. It hopes to have a Help Line Number very soon that will be manned by members of the Committee, who will listen and point people in the right direction. They hope to launch a leaflet at Diocesan Synod and from then the work will develop as the need arises.

Reports of Council to Synod: The draft Reports of Council to Synod were adopted.

Motion on Equality: A Motion to review '*the issue of gender participation*' and '*the membership of the Church in terms, of age, gender, geographical location, experience and recently-arrived migrant groups*' as passed by the 2013 General Synod was considered. The Bishop quoted details of percentages in several Dioceses and it appeared that this Diocese had a good balance in many areas of Church affairs. It was agreed that the question of gender balance starts at Parish level, and can only be addressed by starting at Easter Vestries. This should be for discussion for the Council for the single Diocese, to meet in November.

Bishop's Business: The Bishop concluded each meeting by urging the members to journey forward as one body and assured all those present had a contribution to make to the wider Diocese. He finally expressed his great appreciation and thanks to all members of the Councils over the past years and reminded that the date for the first meeting of the new Council will be on **Friday 8th November in the Parish Room (beside the R.C. Church) in Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow**. He wished everyone God's Blessing and then led the members in prayer together.

Dates for future meetings of Diocesan Council as follows: Monday 31st March 2014; New Ross – (exact venue to be decided); Thursday 22nd May - The Heritage Council, Kilkenny; Tuesday 1st July: Carlow- (venue to be decided); Friday 26th September: Bunclody; Tuesday 2nd December: The Heritage Council, Kilkenny. Two meetings for Parochial Treasurers and all those interested in finance will be held in the Autumn: Thursday 31st October at 8 p.m. in the South School, Abbeyleix; Monday 11th November at 8 p.m. in the Sunday School Meeting Room (Parochial Hall) Bunclody.