

Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council

The Precious Blood and All Souls, 7th September 2015

Present: Fr Michael Brandon, Caroline Harrison (Chairman), Barbara McGowan, Jean Surplice, Michael Tourville, Richard Walsh, John Duckett, John Corroon, Maura Mulcahy

Apologies: Deacon Paul Rabvukwa, Paul Riess, Irene Zikpi

Absent: Annie Greene, Charlie Mullen, Tony Thompson

1. Welcome and Prayer

- few Minutes of silent prayer before an Icon of The Face of Christ

2. Apologies and Review of minutes from July's meeting

- All OK apart from the odd typo, that was corrected

3. Iqra Meeting Sat 12th 2.30pm Sept All Souls – previously agreed topic 'Year of Mercy'

- Discussed whether the plan was to have separate meetings for men and women. will confirm with Iqra
- Commented that maybe we should question why and if we need to be separate in future, Jean noted that the previous meeting at Iqra was not held separately.
- will prepare presentations for meeting, and we will just need to provide light refreshments
- have asked if there was a female member of Iqra who would like to present – to be confirm
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4. Year of Mercy due to start Dec 8th,

- introduced with document from Pope Francis
- 'The Face of Mercy – Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Misericordiae vultus, by Pope Francis'
- The first sentence is – 'Jesus Christ is the Face of the Fathers mercy'
- (reminded us that we will have display of Icons from Friday 9th October and the parish priest from the Greek Orthodox Church

will talk about them on Sunday 11th October at 7pm – please attend if possible

- stated that Pope Francis is making a great effort to work with his opposite number in the Greek Orthodox Church)
- The next action from the booklet is the 'need to contemplate the mystery of mercy'
- There will be the symbolism of Opening of the Holy Door at St Peters, Rome and also at the local St Chad's cathedral, Birmingham
- Dec 8th, Feast of Immaculate Conception is also the 50th anniversary of the closing of 2nd Vatican Council
- stated most of document goes through scripture, showing how mercy is at the heart of the whole practice of our faith
- One suggestion was to think as a parish how we could focus more on scriptures
- There is also a section on corporal and spiritual works of mercy
- Pope Francis also states: 'the season of Lent should be lived more intensively....'to experience God's mercy'
- the document includes an initiative called '24 hours for the Lord' in the weekend of 4th Sunday of Lent 2016 – was suggested, 4th and 5th March
- Pope Francis also states we should try and renew the practice of the sacrament of reconciliation
- There was discussion as to how to disseminate the information – either by distributing documents, or summaries of the document
- suggested the '24 hours for the Lord' could include actual acts of mercy, e.g., working with the homeless, and also queried how to encourage the congregation to study the scriptures more deeply
- referred to the 'Journey in Faith' course, and suggested maybe a more informal approach around a DVD and social gathering might be more inclusive
- suggested an opening mass on Dec 8th, followed by a social event/launch – this suggestion was popular
- suggested we need to look in more depth at spiritual and corporal acts of mercy
- suggested reaching out to those who have fallen away from the church, for whatever reason

- suggested organising an event to invite some of these groups, eg. Separated, divorced, remarried as suggested by Pope Francis
- suggested talking to other parishes about their activities
- suggested concentrating on the launch mass and then working on other projects as year goes on
- suggested devoting a month to each group above, and invite them to events – but agreed that it would not be simple
- suggested celebrating masses for the above and those who have undergone abortions and migrants, or those who have suffered domestic violence or abuse, and forgiveness for those responsible
- suggested inviting the congregation to 'Carriers of Hope' to see the situation first hand, or to see if anyone from there would come and talk to the congregation – could present testimonies and recruit people to help –emphasised that most of us are not aware of the impact of Carriers of Hope on those in grave need
- reflected on '24 hours for Lord', and that would need time for prayers and practical acts of mercy
- suggested we could work with St Osburgs to see what they were doing, particularly about homeless
- said that catechistic team will look at discussion and work on having a month for each of the above groups and invite them to be involved as much as possible, and prepare for the '24hours for the Lord'
- asked if the school would be involved?
- talked about a possible presentation for young people in November and query could coincide with this the launch or part of the Year of Mercy
- also suggested combining the March CTEC breakfast with this and inviting other churches to join us

5. Parish Responsibilities and Evangelisation postponed until November meeting

6. CTEC Updates

- How Great Thou Art (HGTA) programme going ahead as planned
- programmes to be distributed at All Souls next weekend (13th Sept)

- Programme on website ...www.events@hgta.org.uk - . And second collection for it 13th Sept-

7. Christmas Raffle/Party

- Sat 12th December

- Discussion around how to host raffle this year, as we throw away quite a few tickets

- Suggested using cloakroom tickets, but that would only cover those who attended on the night

- suggested double donation to club 200 and then have random number generator on night for prizes, but would not generate enough cash

- Decided to go ahead with raffle

- would appreciate it if someone else could take over –happy to do printing, as long as others organise selling –agreed to sort that out at PPC meeting on 5th November

- will need details for raffle tickets beginning October – see next section on ‘supporting poor parish in Zimbabwe’ – may support through raffle but needs more investigation, as below

- Discussions about prizes – agreed on £100, hamper, M&S voucher for £25

- Discussed possibility of quiz – will discuss at next PPC meeting

8. Supporting Poor Parish in Zimbabwe

- the parish below is extremely devoted

- **The** St Anthony of Padua Mission in Chivhu, Zimbabwe is pleading for a donation to complete the building of St Peters Catholic Church, Chivhu – total \$6700 –

- pointed out how important it is to ensure that the money goes to the genuine recipients – therefore, we will need to take more advice . Will do this and advise in time for ticket printing

9. Sacramental Programme

- have had new member to the sacramental team and the new programmer will start on...28th September.....
- This time, they will look after parents and children together and finish the sessions in church
- we are having follow up meeting for last year's children and parents on 23rd November, 6-7pm, – it will consist of a liturgy of the word and year 4 children will do a presentation on how they have responded to their First Holy Communion. It will be done in church and there will be a period of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament in Church. Followed by tea and biscuits in parish room – need members of council to be present
- Discussion around follow up – feedback from last year was very positive – will update feedback after meeting on 23rd November

10. AOB

- pointed out that there is now a calendar of events on the Parish website, to encourage attendance at events
- have had email wrt CAFOD asking for their supporters to contact their MPs, about the failure of the system put in place a year ago to help rebuild homes in Gaza (letter attached)
- the proposal was to send letter on behalf of the PPC – all agreed
- will also put on parish website and individuals could send to their own MPs - agreed
- asked about weekend that ICONs were going to be on display – wants to keep church open, so need a presence in church on Sat morning and afternoon.
- Will finish with afternoon prayer on Saturday afternoon
- Need cover for Saturday morning and afternoon – Sat 10th Oct –
- **Rota for cover** agreed
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- presented on the parish's financial assets – stated they sit at Archdiocese level – seems to still be some lack of clarity as to the access we have to parish assets that sit at archdiocese level. said that we have budget at Archdiocese level to employ parish secretarial/administrative support
- still working on getting full parish financial records

- suggested using 'one off' envelopes for donations to be 'gift-aided' to increase donations by 25%
- pointed out that have many restrictions on how they run finance committee, as have to be aligned with archdiocese
- highlighted there are some 'Muslim Awareness' sessions coming up and will e-mail to PPC and put up in church

11. Agreed actions and significant dates:

- **Sat 12th September 2015 – Meeting with Iqra at All souls – prepare presentations and Parish Council members to help with refreshments - postponed**
- **Sun 13th September 2015 – Second collection for HGTA and distribution of HGTA programmes**
- **28th September – Commencement of New Sacramental Programme**
- **Beg October –date for advice re prizes and beneficiary of Christmas raffle**
- **Fri 9th and Sat 10th October – Display of Icons – Cover for the icons by PPC members as outlined in text**
- **Sun 11th October, 7pm – Presentation about the Icons by a Representative of the Greek Orthodox Church**
- **5th November 2015 –sort Rota for selling Christmas raffle tickets**
- **23rd November 2015, 6-7pm – Follow up meeting for attendees of Sacramental Programme 2014-2015 – PPC to support provision of refreshments after meeting**
- **Tues 8th December 2015 – Launch mass for 'Year of Mercy' –pass on any actions required to PPC**
- **Sat 12th December 2015 – Christmas party**
- **4th and 5th March 2016 – '24 hours for the Lord' - to be discussed and actions passed onto PPC**
- **letter wrt rebuilding of Gaza homes sent on behalf of the PPC**
- **will upload the above letter to the Parish website**

- **continued liaison wrt membership of finance committee, parish accounts and financial viability of appointing an administrative assistant for the parish**

- **email PPC with posters on 'Muslim Awareness' sessions and put up in church**

12. Close and prayer

