

Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council

The Precious Blood and All Souls, 16th March 2016

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

Apologies: Deacon Paul Rabvukwa, Paul Riess

Absent: Annie Greene , Irene Zikpi, Charlie Mullen, John Duckett,

1. Welcome and Prayer

2. Apologies and Review of minutes from January's meeting and follow up actions- minutes agreed

- will continue to try and source 6 fold away tables of similar size to those already in the room
- No report yet wrt proceeds of raffle
- bereavement training – carry over action
- CTEC are planning a mini HGTA festival on weekend of 8th/9th October and will include film night in that

3. Easter – share our own hopes and expectations – what are our expectations?:

- taking quiet time to reflect on life and death, good to take time for reflection at Easter
- liked the 'graduated' nature of Easter culminating in the Easter Vigil
- Easter Vigil is most special, for reflection and remembrance time, and celebrating becoming a catholic and Christian
- high point is receiving young adults into the church
- see holy week as a pilgrimage
- lent and Easter provides time for reflection
- feel sad and humble on Maundy Thursday and then celebrating on Easter Sunday
- All Souls are 'teaming up' with St Mary Magdalene's and Hearsall Baptist Church for Blessing of Palms just for 930 mass, and asked PPC members to 'marshal' the crowd . Also mentioned that school children will be doing short 'Passion Play'

- all cover for services are in place, including readers, Eucharistic ministers, those getting their feet washed and the fire for the Vigil.
- will look for perspex wind shield for candle

4. Where do we think we are as a parish following the loss of weekly vigil mass (530 Sat and our disagreement with the archdiocese on this matter)

- to check what difference it had made to us as a parish and how we now felt about it
- felt it was an imposition, and not necessarily the right message for a successful parish in terms of vocations etc.
- commented that we have not been listened to, which goes against the Second Vatican Council, and that the archdiocese should be looking for solutions within the parish
- the situation where Father Michael needed to cover other parishes has not materialised
- commented that we were made to feel as if we should not have challenged it
- sad that the church is shut on a Saturday evening and has had to attend masses at Christ the King due to other Sunday commitments. Suggested it could be an excuse for those on the margins of Catholicism to fall by the wayside
- commented that we need to know how it has affected the congregation numbers and parish income, and suggested that we should request this.
- commented on the juxta position between Pope Francis' attitude and that of the Archdiocese
- fears that the message re inforces that the clergy make the decisions and so there is no point in the laity getting involved in parish council etc.
- commented that it does affect us all individually
- commented that the congregation at 930 and 1115 masses is growing but not necessarily by those from 530 mass
- commented that the whole process could marginalize the parish
- encouraged the council to be open and transparent and not feel that we need to hold back because of this
- suggested writing a letter to the Dean to ask if there were plans to review the situation

- suggested we also ask for congregation numbers across the deanery and finances - will do this
- asked if it had affected the reputation of the parish. Did not think so. Wondered if we get less visits from the Bishop than other parishes, and if we could invite him again.

5. Parish jobs – update following recruitment drive

- there was very little uptake following flyer
- we do not have anyone to administer the Club 200 club at the moment, which contributes significantly to the parish. Responsibilities include issuing tickets, doing draw monthly and doing accounts and collecting the subscriptions. We do need someone urgently by April.
- Will ask individuals to talk about what is involved with individual jobs
- commented we are potentially becoming less of a community church and more of an opportunistic church just providing a service.
- asked if other CTEC members have problems with covering 'jobs' –commented that they have smaller congregations but have more involvement.
- suggested that those already doing the job could talk about what is involved in the job after mass and try to recruit.
- compared to the reader list, where more have been recruited and this has eased the burden on the individuals

6. Summary report on finances and review of cost of hiring out parish room

- will circulate summary report when available
- new client would like to hire the parish room on Wednesday all day. Discussions about charge and any fixed bookings for Wednesday. Discussed security during this. The parish room can be isolated from the rest of the church. All agreed that we should hire parish room out to them. Fee to be confirmed.
- mentioned maximising income from other groups that use the room
- Commented that another local church charge hourly rates for room hire
- Agreed to review room hire payments for other parish groups

7. Year of mercy future

- commented that the 24 hours for the Lord event only took place at one Church in the Deanery, so not sure how many parishioners attended
- All commented that attendance had been low at these events, but that the atmosphere was very prayerful, so will continue.
- Suggested next date for April 30th to have session on Marriage, Divorce and Relationships - agreed

8. Report of Iqra Meeting

- reported 12 women and 9 men attended – good mix. Very good comprehensive presentation on Jesus. Discussion was very lively and uplifting. Suspicion has fallen away. Suggested meeting July and maybe in parish garden.
- Suggested topics – the family, the role of pilgrimage in faith or maybe social event. TBC

9. Dialogue with other Christian faiths and CTEC parish representatives

- suggested members of the PPC alternate covering parish representative
- AGM on 11th May, 7pm followed by Committee Meeting 730pm at Hearsall Baptist Church

10. Eucharistic Ministers and readers

- confirmed need to attend on Maundy Thursday
- commented that have 3 new adult readers and some new children, so really well resourced.
- arranging a date for Retreat for Eucharistic Ministers and Readers, at Convent, Monks Kirby. May be 17th September or 1st October

11. Preparation of sacraments 21st March – PPC assisting with refreshments

- 12. commented communicants making first confessions on Monday 21st March and need volunteers to serve drinks. Service 6-7pm. Help required for after 7pm (to arrive 6-630pm)

13. AOB

- May 15th-May 21st Christian Aid week. Suggested cake sale May 22nd

- First communion on 7th and 8th May – asked for volunteers to help with refreshments after. Over 3 masses. Cover to be confirmed at PPC meeting 5th May
- commented we need an updated photograph of parish council, when new council members elected in the Summer

13 . Significant dates:

- **20th March, 930am, combined Palm Blessing with St Mary Magdalene's and Hearsall Baptist Church**
- **21st March – First Confessions 6-7pm –**
- **24th March – Maundy Thursday – Eucharistic Ministers to attend for renewal of commitment**
- **30th April – Year of Mercy Event on Marriage, Divorce and relationships**
- **11th May CTEC AGM 7pm followed by committee meeting at 730pm at Hearsall Baptist Church**
- **15th-21st May – Christian Aid week – 22nd May – Cake Sale after masses**
- **7th and 8th May – First Communions over 3 masses – PPC refreshment volunteers tbc at next PPC meeting on 5th May**
- **17th Sept or 1st October – retreat for Eucharistic Ministers and Readers at the Convent, Monks Kirby**
- **8th/9th October – Proposed date for mini HGTA festival to include film night**

14. Close and prayer

