

MINUTES OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 24 February, 2016

Present: Father Richard Reid(FRR), Father Peter Morris(FPM), Ros Bowles(RB), Joe Colairo(JC), Robin Landon(RL), Mary-Maye Lorrigan(MML), Patrice Murphy(PM), Dina Raouf-Tapp(DRT), Lizzie Sinclair(LS), Michele Reilly

Apologies: Bella Caridade-Ferreira, Alyson Bumby

Minutes

Minutes were agreed with one or two corrections.

Matters Arising

“Pancake Sunday”

A profit of £107 was made on “Pancake Sunday” and this will be given to MML for the “Pre-School Liturgy”, along with the money from Sunday morning coffee.

Catechists

As a result of FPM’s sermon four volunteers had come forward to help with the Children’s Liturgy, of whom two were already helping. It was hoped that they would continue to help after their children had completed the course. It was requested that notices asking for volunteers be given out at all the weekend Masses. No catechists were needed for the First Holy Communion classes. DRT said that these classes are mixed with children and adults which gave a good dynamic. There are no lay catechists for RICA. FRR was asked what was needed to become a catechist for RICA. Catechists need to be reasonably confident in their own faith and to feel free to express it. There is no prescribed agenda.

Lent

It was agreed that a pilgrimage to the Holy Door of St. George’s Cathedral, Southwark should take place on Saturday, 5 March. Mass would be said at 12.30, then, after eating packed lunches, a walk to Clapham North tube station, probably carrying banners, would take place. The tube would be taken to Borough and then another walk to the cathedral, where a service would be held. JC mentioned Amigo Hall, suggesting it was worth a visit. It was also suggested that a video should be made of the journey, maybe putting it on YouTube. Details of the walk would go into the bulletin and posters would be put up with the details.

Eucharistic Ministers’ Retreat

There was good feedback from this.

Easter Liturgies

There had been a lot of enquiries regarding the absence of a 7.00 pm mass on Ash Wednesday so FRR wished to make sure that none of the usual masses were missed out over Easter.

It was suggested that wardens/passkeepers/ushers be appointed to oversee people going up to communion especially on days when the church is crowded as it tends to be a “free for all”. JC/LS volunteered and it was suggested that badges or some form of identification should be worn. It was also suggested that some people from the volunteer list could be used.

Fr David Raju

Fr David Raju has now obtained a visa and will be arriving in the parish on 7 March. It is hoped that he will be able to act as an assistant to FFR and FPM but confirmation of this is awaited from the Diocese.

Redemptorist/Parish Celebration – 2 July

It is planned to hold a special event to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the gift to the Redemptorists of the Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour by the Blessed Pope Pius IX who told them to make her known on 2 July.

It is intended to cancel the usual 12.30 mass and to hold a mass at 2.00 at which Bishop Ralph Heskett will officiate. Cardinal Vincent Nicholls will be coming together with Brethren from other Redemptorist houses. The mass will be followed by a garden party. MR suggested that information should be given to the catholic press. It was pointed out that this would clash with the school fete but this could not be helped.

Ace of Clubs 21st Birthday

A party will be held on the 9 July to celebrate the 21st birthday of the Ace of Clubs. This party will take place in the Monastery garden and expenses are being covered by donations and sponsors. Tickets will be given out to certain groups and others will be sold to the public. The Ace of Clubs main gates will be closed but access to the building will be given via the door from the garden so guests can have a look round.

Church Summer Fete

It is intended that this should be held on 25 June.

It was suggested that perhaps the three events could share a marquee. This would be cheaper than three separate hirings.

Volunteers

Some volunteers have been asking why they had not been contacted. RL mentioned the Friends of St. Mary's which had been suggested before but had not actually come into being and it was thought this might be a good idea as it would give volunteers more sense of involvement. There would need to be someone to lead and co-ordinate this group. FPM said there was a need to identify the areas of need and to match them to volunteers. FRR/MML/LS/DRT would look into this and maybe sub-committees could be set up. LS offered to look at the list of volunteers and try to sort them out into categories according to their strengths.

Finance Update

It was not sure when the next Finance Committee meeting would be held. It was suggested that, as two members had been lost from the committee, someone else should be asked to join it. Katie Toone was suggested and it was agreed that MML should sound her out to see if she would be prepared to join the committee.

Gift Aid

RL said that gift aid is very low and he was not sure that people understand about the tax relief and that maybe it should be called a government subsidy instead. Nick Kavanagh is coming on 3 April to give talks about gift aid at the end of mass. It was agreed that every effort should be made to get people to set up standing orders as this made things easier although it was felt that maybe some people did not do this as they liked to be seen putting something into the collection.

Hall Update

The trustees have agreed that a certain company can apply for planning permission for halls with flats above. The halls are still officially closed.

Any Other Business

Br Charles will take his final vows on 11 June and be ordained as a deacon by Bishop Ralph on 12 June. His ordination as a priest will take place on 8 December. All these ceremonies will take place at St. Mary's.

24 April was suggested for cream teas/cupcakes after 12.00 mass.

Dates of Next Meetings

13 April

8 June

6 July