

## **MINUTES OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**

### **Wednesday, 6 July, 2016**

**Present:** Father Peter Morris (FPM), Father David Raju (FDR), Ros Bowles (RB), Robin Landon (RL), Mary-Maye Lorriman (MML), Patrice Murphy (PM), Rudi Pittrof (RP), Dina Raouf-Tapp (DRT), Michelle Reilly (MR), Lizzie Sinclair (LS)

**Apologies:** Father Richard Reid, Alyson Bumby, Bella Caridade-Ferreira and Joe Colairo

#### **Minutes**

Minutes were approved (proposed by FL and seconded by LS) and it was agreed that they could be put up on the website.

#### **Matters Arising**

##### **Ace of Clubs – Sox Appeal**

RP said the £170 has been raised to spend on more socks or other clothes for the homeless./ David Logan had said that he wanted to wait until after the Ace of Clubs 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Party to launch the appeal officially, i.e. information in the press, etc. RP was to ask if there could be a Sox Stall at the party. MR thought it would be a good idea to get the school involved with competitions, etc. It was agreed that the appeal should be kept going during the winter if possible.

##### **Summer Garden Party - 25<sup>th</sup> June**

DRT reported that £2,760 had been raised after expenses. LS thought that the weather had kept people away but it was thought that the garden party was generally a success and that any profit made was a bonus, although, as always, more volunteers were needed. RP's piñata had been a great attraction. DRT said she thought that people would rather have a social gathering than the opportunity to buy things that could be bought cheaper elsewhere. DRT had sent an email thanking people for helping.

DRT thought that maybe that children from the school (maybe the confirmation class) could run a stall at any future event. It was thought that there was not generally enough for 10/11 year olds to do and that efforts should be made to get them involved. It was suggested that FRR should give a talk to the school to emphasise the connection between the church and the school and to say that those children who did not come to church would not get a recommendation for secondary schools. DRT suggested that parents should be asked why they wanted their children to take their First Holy Communion. RL said that it was a perennial problem. FPM suggested that this was an item for the agenda for a later meeting and this was agreed.

FPM thanked DRT for all her hard work for the Garden Party.

##### **Redemptorist/Parish Celebration**

LS said that it had been a lovely service and that everybody had enjoyed it. RL asked how the Redemptorists felt about it. FPM said that there were people from three Redemptorist parishes there showing that relationships were continuing to blossom after the Rome pilgrimage. Parishioners from the other parishes were talking about doing something similar which would give a chance for St. Mary's to visit them. The Cardinal had liked the service. DRT said that she had appreciated the musicians and RB had received an email saying that the choir had enjoyed themselves. Thanks were due to JC for providing the rolls/sandwiches.

##### **Ace of Clubs 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Party**

FPM said that there was nothing to discuss. Everybody was invited and the tickets cost £10. This was an opportunity to continue to support the Ace of Clubs and to celebrate what had been done over the past 21 years. It was noted that the party clashed with the St Mary's school fete. RL suggested that a reminder should be given at the school fete about the Ace of Clubs party.

### **Finance Update**

The council was informed that the church computer had been attacked and the accounts, among other things had been lost.

RL said that there was a problem with the financial return. It had been returned for amendment but this had nothing to do with the computer problems. St. Mary's had accrued a debt to the Diocese. The same payment had been made to the Diocese every year whereas this payment should have been worked out based on the amount in the collection. This had been going on for several years. Negotiations would have to be started with the Diocese to arrange to pay off this debt. The running costs of the church and the fact that the Diocese had made no donation to the Spire Fund could possibly be used as bargaining chips. A Finance Committee meeting need to be arranged before the holiday break. FPM asked that this should be done that that FRR be kept informed of the position.

### **Gift Aid**

RL asked if anybody had obtained a sample envelope from a church which put them on the pews for visitors. RB offered to get one from Holy Trinity. It was suggested that even parishioners might use them on the odd occasion. RL asked if there was a donation linked website. LS said no but that a Just Giving page set up by the Diocese had been sent to FRR to be adjusted for the parish but this had not yet been done.

### **Dates of Next Meetings**

No meeting in August

14 September

12 October

### **Any Other Business**

It was noted that FPM would be leaving on 14<sup>th</sup> August and MR suggested that the parish should say goodbye at the 10 o'clock Mass on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> August.

RP asked what the PPC could do to help the students to make their training for the priesthood more effective and more enjoyable and how support could be given on a human level. RL asked whether anything could be gained from contact with the parish. FPM emphasised that the Monastery is different from the parish and it was up to Fr Charlie to determine what the relationship should be. FPM said it was different for each individual but he would mention that this subject had been brought up by the PPC and that there was a desire to give support to the students. It was agreed that this subject should be put on the agenda for a later meeting.

LS asked if everything was ready for the Good Shepherd Catechism. MML was hopeful that everything would be ready; she was waiting for her DBS check to come through but expected everything to be sorted out by September/October.

Planning permission notices had been put up on the hall and it was hoped to hear from the Council shortly.

RL wanted everybody to think about how to keep families engaged with the church between baptism of children and applications for school and also between First Holy Communion and confirmation and entry into secondary school.

