

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, 16 November, 2016**

Present: Father Richard Reid (FRR) Ros Bowles (RB), Alyson Bumby (AB), Caridade-Ferreira BCF, Dina Raouf-Tapp (DRT), Mary-Maye Lorrigan (MML), Lizzie Sinclair (LS) and Michelle Reilly (MR) – part time

Apologies: Father David Raju, Joe Colairo, Robin Landon, Patrice Murphy and Rudi Pittrof

**Minutes**

Minutes were approved subject to amendment and it was agreed that they could be put up on the website.

**Matters Arising**

Glass Partition in Church - There was a discussion regarding a glass partition in the church to be used by parents with small children. MML was concerned that they would not be able to hear and know what was going on in Mass but it was pointed out that loudspeakers could be installed. DRT asked where the children normally sit but it was decided that there was not a definite pattern. No decision was taken.

Occasional Gift Aid Envelopes – BCF had ordered some “occasional” gift aid envelopes from the Diocese for next year and as specific information has to be included on them she suggested that it was left for the moment. FRR asked what size these envelopes would be so something could be arranged to hold them at the ends of the pews. BCF said she would try to find out. LS pointed out that it would be necessary to let visitors aware of the envelopes. BCF said that the welcomers could do this but AB pointed out that this could make the visitors feel less welcome.

**Finance Update**

BCF said that the Financial Return had been submitted to the Diocese and explained the situation with regard to the Diocesan Development Fund and said that the Finance Committee were not backing down and the money would not be paid. There was no actual written agreement which LS pointed out might work in St Mary’s favour. FRR said that if the money is not paid then the Diocese could do nothing except take St Mary’s to Canonical Court and he didn’t think they would because they were in a very weak position. FRR read out the letter it was proposed to send to the Diocese and it was agreed that it should be sent.

BCF said that when the new computer had been installed that Fergal Keane, the auditor, would come in and show us the spreadsheet that he uses in his own parish and which several other parishes use and then 2016 could be entered.

7.30 – MR left the meeting.

**Christmas Lunch**

LS and AB wanted to know what the age limit for children is. After some discussion it was decided that the upper age limit for children should be 16. Tickets could be sold after Masses and would be available from the office during the week. LS asked how many volunteers would be needed for setting up. AB suggested cash prizes for the raffle – 1<sup>st</sup> prize - £100; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - £50; 3<sup>rd</sup> prize - £25. This was agreed.

### **St Nicholas**

DRT asked about the Saint Nicholas day on 4<sup>th</sup> December. There are about 50/60 gifts; A discussion took place and it should be kept short (after 10 Mass). It was agreed that there would be a Santa Clause and mince pies/Christmas biscuits would be on sale with tea and coffee.

### **Christmas Gathering for Volunteers**

This would be on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January with Mass at 7.00 pm and nibbles and drinks in the Monastery at 7.45 pm. The logistics of letting everybody know was discussed and it was agreed that LS and JP would liaise re the lists of volunteers.

### **Communion Ushers**

BCF repeated that something needs to be sorted out for the 10 Mass. LS suggested that the celebrant could give instructions for each section of the church. MML said that she liked her children to go to the priest for a blessing. BCF said maybe the priest should surprise everybody by changing sides halfway through communion. FRR reminded everybody that communion should be a procession not a free-for-all. AB asked if something could be said in the homily from the pulpit to remind people that it was valid to take communion from a Eucharistic minister and DRT said that people should also be reminded that some of these ministers are taking their children's first communion classes. It was decided that FRR should find out whether Eucharistic ministers are permitted to give blessings. BCF suggested running a pilot scheme at 10 Mass.

### **Glass Doors**

FRR suggested that glass doors be installed where the main church doors are on Clapham Park Road so that passers-by would be able to see right into the church. BCF questioned as to whether the Council would allow this to be done. FRR pointed out that the doors are not original and glass doors would show that the church is not shut. DRT suggested that plans and prices should be obtained. FRR agreed to talk to the architects.

### **Toilet**

It was agreed that FRR should be plans and prices for a new toilet to be installed in the courtyard.

### **Dates of Next Meetings**

No meeting in December

18<sup>th</sup> January, 2017

1<sup>st</sup> March (Ash Wednesday)

5<sup>th</sup> April - tbc

### **Any Other Business**

None