

APPROVED

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting, St. Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch
Wednesday 18th May 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Fr. Martin Fletcher, Eddie Allen (Chair), Tony Bennett, Maureen Boorman, Joanne Challis, Jean Horan, Sara O'Brien, Gary Redmond, Frances Rodgers, Jane Tatam, Brian Rodgers (Secretary).
PARISH REPS/OBSERVERS:	John Fells, Brenda Kivlehan, Claire Trew.
APOLOGIES:	Trisa Mahoney, Kathy O'Dea, Dominica Olewunne, Susan Squire.
The meeting was held in the Presbytery Dining Room and commenced at 20:00 with a welcome and prayers.	
MINUTES	
The minutes of the meeting of 16 th Mar 2016 were approved and signed by the Chair.	
MATTERS ARISING	ACTIONS
Youth – John Fells queried 'Year 6+' 21. Music – The name of the young woman who played at 11.30am Mass is Frances. 52.45 Gary moved the benches – the small bench in the first pew has been moved to the main aisle end.	
CORRESPONDENCE	
None	
PARISH PRIEST'S POINTS	
<p>Thanks to all catechists. Celebrations for First Communion and Confirmation went well. 43 enrolled in new Confirmation group.</p> <p>May Queen Procession 22nd May – Keep prayers up for good weather. Gary outlined the timetable.</p> <p>First Holy Communion – John Fells said there was a lot of discontent among catechists that there was a collection; they felt it inappropriate. Families and friends were taken aback. If it happens again, he will withdraw as a catechist.</p> <p>Fr. Martin said that after last year's First Communion Masses it was raised at the Finance Committee and agreed that collections would be taken. We are £23,000 in the red. At the Deanery meeting, he asked the other priests and they all have collections at First Communion Masses. Change is difficult and we have big changes now, with one priest.</p> <p>Jane said she was upset that the collections were made. She asked fervently that if it is desperate to have them, could they not be in the middle of Mass?</p> <p>Fr. Martin said he asked the parents and they were happy to have a collection as usual.</p> <p>Jo Challis pointed out it was agreed in Finance and reported to the Parish Council before Fr. Martin came, and should have happened last year. Those three Masses raised £1600.</p> <p>Eddie said there are strong views on both sides but we can look at it for next year, as there is sensitivity to this issue. He assured John that it will be thought through and a decision made.</p> <p>Stewards of the Gospel – Fr. Martin went to a meeting in the diocese. About 79 parishes have appointed them. Jack How has accepted the role and will attend the training. It is a renewal programme. They have looked at what is being done in other dioceses, some of which worked and some didn't.</p> <p>There will be about 10 priests fewer in the diocese in the next five years. Parishes will have to amalgamate. SOTG will look at reality of the parishes and between them will look at overall organisation.</p> <p>Isle of White – Fr. Martin going with year 6, Monday to Thursday. Children now coming into morning Mass on Tuesdays.</p>	

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OTHER BUSINESS		
AGM Elections – Brian stated the situation regarding vacancies arising. 52. General items. 46. Hall Fire Exits – Brenda pointed out the exit to the left of the School Kitchen leads only to an enclosed area and is therefore not a fire exit. The front door needs a push bar fitted. Gary will get someone in to assess it and report back. 47. Summer Fayre – 25 th June – looking for lots of help and donations of gifts, etc. This year being driven more by David Leech from a school perspective. Fr. Martin commented how lovely it was last year, a wonderful event. 48. Maintenance – Gary passed round details of work required. a) Part of the car park wall had to be taken down because it was dangerous. Have three quotes for replacing it. The insurance assessor will inspect the wall. b) Back car park – the lights have been replaced for nothing. c) Additions to list – there is a water leak in the Hall, and also in the Presbytery pantry, where plaster is coming down. 49. May Queen – John Fells said he had been asked by several parishioners how the May Queen would be chosen. Fr. Martin said he had already picked someone. John was not happy with the situation and left the meeting. Fr. Martin said he has done things in good faith for which he gets criticised. Clare commented that since he arrived, he has encouraged children to Mass during the week, and been into the school a lot. It is noticeable that he and David Leech work together to invest in the children.		Gary
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING		
Wednesday 15 th June 2016. Clash of date with Confirmation session in the Hall, so moved to Van Meenen Room.		
DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING		
Wednesday 20 th July 2016, 8:00pm The Presbytery.		
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – Provisional dates		
14 th Sept (Provisional, as original date is now Confirmation with the Bishop), 16 th Nov, 18 th Jan 2017, 15 th Mar 2017, 17 th May 2017, AGM 21 st June 2017, 19 th July 2017. [Please put these dates in your diaries]		
The meeting closed with prayers.		
Brian J. Rodgers Secretary	Signed: Eddie Allen Chairperson	
17 th June 2016	Date 20 th July 2016	