



Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting of
St. Mary, Mother of God, Hornchurch
Thursday 20th June 2018

FILE COPY

PRESENT:	Fr. Martin Fletcher, Eddie Allen (Chair), Brian J Rodgers (Secretary) and 14 members of the parish.
APOLOGIES:	Brenda Kivlehan, Jo Luxton.
The meeting, in the Parish Hall, commenced at 20:04hrs with a welcome and prayers, led by Fr Martin.	
	ACTIONS
MINUTES	
The minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting were adopted and signed, with no matters arising.	
PARISH PRIEST	
<p>Fr Martin said he was giving thanks to God for the many blessings we have had in the parish.</p> <p>First Holy Communion was very good, as were the May Queen Procession and the Summer Fayre.</p> <p>A big thank-you to so many people working in the parish, not reflected by attendance at this meeting.</p> <p>He has a couple of ideas in mind:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Bishop will visit on Sunday 24th March 2019 for Confirmation and will perhaps celebrate all the Masses. 2. Elm Park had a mission with the Redemptorist Fathers. It was very good. Fr Martin received a letter asking if we would like one here. Possible dates (2019) for a mini-mission – 18/19th May, then Monday 20th – Wednesday 22nd. Either two priests, or one with a lay person. He asked the view of the meeting. Generally perceived as a good idea. Suggestion to have it earlier in the year, when both Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes would be running and we could get the parents involved, but finally agreed to go with the mini-mission on the dates above. <p>Need a confirmation group ready for 24th March 2019. Perhaps a pre-confirmation course such as Alpha or CaFE to prepare them. The role of parents in supporting them needs to be emphasised. This comes from experience with the present group. Mary Redmond agreed. We need something to hold the youngsters. There is a senate coming up in Rome on that topic. We need to address the needs of the young.</p> <p>First Holy Communion – need to get the parents more involved in the Mass.</p> <p>Altar Servers – bowling expedition 20th July.</p> <p>Starting in September, idea of Family Prayer, on a Tuesday evening, with statue of Our Lady, in peoples homes.</p> <p>New Hymn Books – we need them! Perhaps do a rolling collection during the summer to raise money for new hymn books. Gary asked about Mass books. Fr Martin said there is talk that the readings may be changed. At present they are from the Jerusalem Bible but may change to the RSV translation.</p> <p>Car Parking – the gym has been given the go-ahead (Joanne said it has been open for a week!). We need signs up to state that it is a private car park for church and school only. John Fells commented that the playground will be used because the gates are open out of hours. People use it to go to Tesco.</p> <p>Fr Martin said we need to get signs up to start with. Eddie suggested monitoring to see the effect. Susan advised speaking to the people in the gym and asking them to tell their customers not to park</p>	



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<p>in the church/school grounds. Gary said there are ways, and firms, to do monitoring as a further stage.</p> <p>Diocesan Re-organisation – Fr Martin doesn't think it will happen this year and only slightly next year.</p> <p>We also need to celebrate our diversity – use the Mass on 22nd September to do this. Jackie said we used to have One World.</p> <p>We need to get more people involved in the work of the parish. Jack said to get the Masses in the various parishes sorted out and the lay people to do the rest.</p> <p>Difficult to have 3 Masses on Sundays – need to look at this closely. Gary said we are by far the busiest parish in the area; we need to get priests to pop in to cover Masses. John Fells felt we are going over the same old ground.</p> <p>Fr Martin said we need to get more Eucharistic Ministers to take communion to the sick.</p> <p>Jack explained we are going down the line of sorting the problem but although we are already planning ahead, other parishes are not. Susan asked how we do this if we are short of priests. Jack explained the theory.</p> <p>Susan commented that when Fr Martin says Mass, he provides us with spiritual refreshment – who does it for him?</p> <p>Gary asked Fr Martin to put down what he would like us to do to help him, so we have something to work with. He felt it would be better to build a connection with one priests rather than numerous different priests. Teresa Young said we need to change our mind-set about having our own priest – we can go to Mass at 5 parishes.</p> <p>Jane said the First Holy Communion programme is complete for this year – very successful. Did lots of extra things this year (BCCS boxes, food banks, etc). She has now seen all the parents for next year. Should be OK for catechists.</p> <p>Mary Redmond said she could always use more catechists for Confirmation.</p>	<p>Fr M</p>
<p>REPORTS (available separately)</p>	
<p>Printed copies were distributed before the meeting (also available from Secretary on request):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St Mary's Parish Presents... 2. Flower Group 3. The Choir 4. Knights of St Columba <p>Provided on separate sheets</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Youth Club 6. Financial Summary 	
<p>ELECTIONS</p>	
<p>Continuing to serve: Gary Redmond, Eddie Allen, Frances Rodgers, Joanne Challis. Standing down: Susan Squire, Dominica Olewunne. Eligible for re-election: Pat Edwards, Brenda Kivlehan, Jo Luxton and Teresa Young.</p> <p>There were eight vacancies on the Parish Council, two from those standing down, four from those eligible for re-election following completion of 2 years and two outstanding from 2017. Those eligible for re-election were willing to continue, Maria Rayner was willing to stand, and Fr Martin nominated</p>	



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Stephen Beech, formerly of Goodmayes parish. This leaves 2 vacancies. Brian suggested that the meeting mandate Fr Martin and Eddie to find people to fill the remaining vacancies.		Fr M, Eddie
OTHER BUSINESS		
<p>John Fells said that 6 young people from the parish are going to Lourdes, helped by the Youth Club and Jack Petchey. They would be at Tesco the following Saturday, helping load bags, with a bucket for donations.</p> <p>Gary reminded everyone about the Thanksgiving Mass. Make sure as many people as possible are invited. Social after, which will hopefully become a One-World evening.</p> <p>Eucharistic Ministers not fulfilling their duties – Brian has been on about this for years. He will draft a letter to all E.M.s for Fr Martin to agree.</p> <p>Fr Martin mentioned the funeral the following week of Dee Horsman, who had been a catechist and on the Parish Council.</p>		<p>All</p> <p>Brian</p>
DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS		
Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 18 th July 2018 Parish Annual Meeting 2019 – To be advised		
Eddie thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed with prayers at 20.59.		
Brian J. Rodgers Secretary	Signed: (by Eddie Allen) Chairperson Eddie Allen	
6 th July 2018	Date 19 th June 2019	