

DRAFT

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting, St. Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch
Wednesday 7th March 2018


MEMBERS PRESENT:	Fr. Martin Fletcher, Eddie Allen (Chair), Joanne Challis, Pat Edwards, Brenda Kivlehan, Jo Luxton, Gary Redmond, Frances Rodgers, Jane Tatam, Brian Rodgers (Secretary).
PARISH REPS/OBSERVERS:	John Fells, Catherine Orchard.
APOLOGIES:	Jack How, Trisa Mahoney, Susan Squire, Teresa Young.
The meeting was held in the Presbytery and commenced at 20:05 with a welcome and prayers.	
MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting of 17 th January 2018 were approved and signed by the Chair.	
MATTERS ARISING	ACTIONS
<p>'More Volunteers' speech – Fr. Martin said more were helping at certain times. Still trying to get more to help.</p> <p>Gary said Caraid is putting together a list of everything happening in the parish. Date for Thanksgiving Mass set for 21st April, with social afterwards. Gary and Jack (who is temporarily out of action) will organise.</p> <p>Bolt on Parish hall door – John said the school has assured him they will put plasticised labels.</p>	
CORRESPONDENCE	
None received	
PARISH PRIEST'S POINTS	
<p>Thanks to those who spoke at Masses to help get people involved.</p> <p>'Street Invest' Lenten Project – Lent is early this year and no project was organised. Fr. Martin spoke to David Leech and he mentioned Street Invest, so Fr Martin decided to go with the school on this project. CEO Duncan Ross will come to speak about the project at 9.30am and 11.30am Masses.</p> <p>Altar breads – the Carmelite nuns who supply them are now making them a bit larger. Will look for supplier of smaller ones. Can't get so many in the ciborium if larger.</p> <p>Reconciliation Service - Tuesday 20th March, 7.30pm</p> <p>Year 5 – Fr Martin is signing little forms to confirm they have been to mass so that he can sign the school forms with confidence. He may get someone else to sign the forms. He doesn't do this every week but the parents don't know when he will.</p> <p>Stations of the Cross</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) 12 noon Good Friday – organised by Angela Bennett and David Leech, using Year 6.b) Other three Fridays remaining in Lent will be covered by various groups. <p>Easter Services – Fr Martin summarised the timetable. He also mentioned the RCIA group.</p> <p>Music – Michael Wigley played at 11.30am Mass a couple of weeks previously. Frances O'Leary will be doing the next weekend and may be able to do it fortnightly. Fr Martin wondered whether to ask Michael Wigley once a month, alternating with Frances.</p> <p>Eddie suggested that David Leech send the music for the children's choir's occasions to Jacques, so that he can play them. The Choir rehearses in school but any child can sing with it.</p>	
SACRAMENTS	
<p>Jane said everything is proceeding well. She will do Stations with them. She gave outline details.</p> <p>Also running extra Baptism course for 5 – 10 yrs.</p> <p>Parents having to sign in encourages greater Mass attendance.</p> <p>Jane mentioned her catechesis course. One aspect is how to make it relevant for youngsters used to mobile phones, etc.</p> <p>Baptism steady. Helping out Gidea Park.</p>	

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<p>Gary said 29 young people went to Abbotswick and thoroughly enjoyed being there. A pity more did not go. This may be because the retreat was early in the course.</p> <p>Fr Martin thought they have done a really good job of altering Abbotswick.</p>	
<p>FINANCE</p>	
<p>Joanne said the figures are not always showing all costs but it looks like we are £5k better than predicted, but remaining cautious!</p> <p>Gary asked if we could have a basic statement before each meeting.</p> <p>Eddie asked if we have a lot of priority work to be done on the church.</p> <p>Joanne said they will be doing the budget on the Friday following this meeting.</p>	
<p>YOUTH</p>	
<p>John said members of the youth group are going to Lourdes; they are asking Jack Petchey to help fund it, £275 per head – actual cost is £575. 18 out of this parish going. 4 going from Youth Club – the parents are doing their own fund-raising. Gary added that there are twice as many going from this parish than any other. He explained why.</p> <p>Jane and Rose Sullivan will look at taking a group from Youth Club to Abbotswick.</p> <p>Jane suggested the Parish Council go on retreat there some time. Gary has spoken to Fr Dominic – he would like each parish to attend for a day.</p>	
<p>RESTRUCTURING OF THE DIOCESE</p>	
<p>Gary spoke on the meeting with Upminster Parish Council. A youth meeting is to be held. Probably hold youth meeting here and provide pizza! A new date is being proposed – Eddie will send it round when he has it. Will look also at other joint exercises.</p> <p>Also try One World Night in autumn (around Harvest Time) – need a Parish Councillor to be contact to Upminster. Jo said St Mary's Presents could take this on.</p> <p>Gary said we don't know enough people in the parish so need to get out and contact more people. Regarding Youth, get a group of Year 7/8 together.</p> <p>Gary warned that we need to keep grounded and not get swamped with interparish issues, to the detriment of our own parish responsibilities.</p>	Eddie
<p>OTHER BUSINESS</p>	
<p>40th Anniversary of Priesthood of Fr Ticao - Frances outlined the set up and how it came about through the Justice and Peace group, etc. Lily Thomson, a former parishioner of St Mary's, has been invited to the celebration in Sao Francisco, Brazil. Suggestion was made to send a gift to him. Agreed this will be an agenda item for 16th May to discuss it further. In the meantime, any ideas can be e-mailed around.</p> <p>Van Meenen Rooms roof – leaking. Gary is getting a quote. Joanne felt we should get 3 quotes.</p> <p>Church heating – more radiators down the sides was a suggestion. Brian bled the system recently and it is now slightly better.</p> <p>Parish Council Meetings – people may be put off coming to the meetings because of the title "Parish Council". Maybe change it. Perhaps put date of next meeting in newsletter immediately after the previous meeting and emphasise "open to all". Need to encourage more people to come. Jo said each should bring a friend to the meeting. Suggestion of changing the meeting title to "Parish Meeting". Pat suggested the AGM should renamed as "Parish Get Together".</p> <p>Nursery building next door – has a leaking overflow, which is breaking up the new concrete render. Gary will speak to them.</p> <p>St Mary's Presents – needs more workers, doers rather than just attendees.</p> <p>Rear Lighting – John said Gary has done a wonderful job with the back area lights but one is not</p>	

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working and is an important one.		
DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING		
Wednesday 16 th May 2018, 8:00pm The Presbytery (or Van Meenen Room).		
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – Provisional dates - Please put these dates in your diaries		
AGM 20 th June 2018, 18 th July 2018, 19 th Sept 2018, 21 st Nov 2018, 16 th Jan 2019, 15 th May 2019.		
The meeting closed with prayers at around 21:20.		
Brian J. Rodgers Secretary	Signed:	
	Chairperson	
12 th March 2018	Date	

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