


Minutes of Parish Meeting, St. Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch
Wednesday 15th May 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Fr. Martin Fletcher, Maria Rayner, Frances Rodgers, Jane Tatam, Brian Rodgers (Secretary).
PARISH REPS/OBSERVERS:	John Fells.
APOLOGIES:	Eddie Allen (Chair), Joanne Challis, Jackie Caprari, David Leech, Teresa Young, Jack How.
The meeting was held in the Presbytery and commenced at 20:05 with the Lenten Prayer. In Eddie's absence, Fr Martin chaired the meeting.	
MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting of 20 th March 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair.	
MATTERS ARISING	ACTIONS
CAFOD Collection – very good. Details to follow. Confirmation – very well organised. Fr William Young (Barking) is seriously ill. Children's Choir – getting better and better. Holy Week – excellent. Maundy Thursday Mass starting at 7.30pm was too early. It made watching till midnight very long. CCTV Labels – being ordered by Caraid. School starting time – parents all feel under pressure to get children in early.	
CORRESPONDENCE – None	
RESTRUCTURING OF THE DIOCESE	
On Monday last, there was a prayer session at St Joseph's for the Partnership. Frances said it was a nice gathering of people praying together, with readings. It was led by Stephanie, with the benches turned to make a circle. It was looking positively towards the future, on what we are gaining rather than what we are losing. Fr Martin talked about the Mission to them. Groups from English Martyrs and Upminster are intending to come to the Healing Mass. Meeting with Stewards of the Gospel, Clergy, and chairs of the Finance Committees and Parish Councils. A really open discussion on the effects of coming down to 6 Masses overall. They are sending a letter to the Bishop via Stephen Webb about the various possibilities.	
PARISH PRIEST'S POINTS	
Fr Martin spoke about some of the maintenance and improvement issues. The refurbishing of the Van Meenen Room, with different heaters and sorting out the lighting. Need to look at two-way switching for the lights. The toilets need redoing. Fr Martin has had a different toilet paper recommended because of blockage problems. Brian suggested installing a macerator. There was also discussion about the Van Meenen Room door. Brian repeated Jo Luxton's suggestion of fitting a night-latch lock in addition to the mortice deadlock, so that the door could be locked when people were in there, particularly during the Children's Liturgy, to stop people just popping in without the group using it being aware of them. Jo had also suggested a doorbell so anyone wishing to get in could ring it and be admitted. Presbytery Roof – there are broken tiles and a hole, and now needs checking for rotten timbers. John fells asked if this was covered by any insurance. Fr Martin will be going to Medjugorje on 28 th May with a group from the parish. Fr Matthias is applying for a visa and hopes to come. Mary Redmond has agreed to continue as co-ordinator for Confirmation. Biggest issue is catechists.	

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<p>At Easter, Fr John Tuohy (Upminster) was sick and couldn't speak, which was a problem.</p> <p>Mission – word is spreading in schools and other parishes. Fr Kieran has contacted St Mary's School. David Leech will be on the Isle of Wight that week but Mrs de Souza is liaising very well.</p> <p>The social after the Mission on Wednesday evening - Jo Luxton is organising a group to help.</p>		
<p>SACRAMENTS</p>		
<p>Jane said that First Holy Communion is coming up soon. The children will be involved in the May Queen Procession and their parents will help afterwards.</p> <p>Catechists are always a problem. Jane has lost one. She thought that we should go back to the parents and tell them that if they don't help, the programme could be in jeopardy.</p> <p>Frances suggested an invitation in the newsletter for people to come forward to be catechists, not for a particular sacrament. Discussion followed on how people feel about it. Some are scared of trying because they don't think they could do it. John F commented that for years afterwards, children and grown-ups have come up to him and greeted him.</p> <p>Jane hopes the imminent changes will make people realise what they have in this parish.</p>		
<p>YOUTH</p>		
<p>John F said the Quiz Night they ran made a goodly sum. They will now meet to decide who and how many can go to Lourdes. He thanks everyone who came to help raise the money. It was an excellent response. They came and they stayed!</p> <p>They also had a gift from the Jack Petchey Foundation.</p> <p>The Club had a visit from a lady from English Martyrs who is starting a youth club there. Our Youth Club have offered help and also equipment, as they have some to spare.</p> <p>Fr Martin said the Catenians are helping three young people to go to Lourdes.</p>		
<p>FINANCE – Joanne sent a balance sheet for 2018-19</p>		
<p>Brian explained the situation briefly, as he best he could.</p> <p>John F asked about the rental income – it is from the Avenue Club in Rush Green.</p> <p>Maria said the repository is doing better now, with a good variety of items.</p>		
<p>OTHER BUSINESS</p>		
<p>John F repeated his statement from the last Parish Meeting that the ladies' toilets in the Parish Hall are in a terrible state. The School use them during the day so surely they should share the responsibility of getting them sorted out. Fr Martin suggested that the school could get a contractor to give a quote and then the parish could pay for it.</p> <p>John F recalled when the swimming pool and the changing rooms were built largely by parents and asked if we could do the same for the toilets. Surely there must be enough know-how and labour amongst parents and parishioners to do this?</p>		
<p>DATE OF NEXT PARISH MEETING</p>		
<p>Parish Annual Meeting – 19th June 2019.</p>		
<p>Next Parish Meeting – 17th July 2019</p>		
<p>FORTHCOMING MEETINGS</p>		
<p>18th Sept, 20th Nov, 15th Jan '20, 18th Mar '20, 20th May '20, 17th Jun '20 (Annual Parish Meeting).</p>		
<p>The meeting closed with prayers.</p>		
<p>Brian J. Rodgers Secretary</p>	<p>Signed:</p> <p>Chairperson</p>	
<p>18th May 2019</p>	<p>Date</p>	