


APPROVED

Minutes of Parish Meeting, St. Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch
Wednesday 20th November 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Fr. Martin Fletcher, Fr Matthias, Eddie Allen (Chair), Pat Edwards, Maria Rayner, Jane Tatam, Paul Connolly, Catherine Orchard, Teresa Young, Jack How, Brian Rodgers (Secretary).
PARISH REPS/OBSERVERS:	Jackie Caprari, John Fells, Frances Rodgers.
APOLOGIES:	Joanne Challis, Stephen Beech.
The meeting was held in the Presbytery and commenced at 20:03 with a prayer to St John Henry Newman.	
MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting of 18 th Sept 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair.	
MATTERS ARISING	ACTIONS
CCTV Labels – have been put up by Brian.	
CORRESPONDENCE – Janet James has resigned from the Parish Council because of work.	
RESTRUCTURING OF THE DIOCESE	
Jack reported that Stephen Webb had replied regarding the proposal from our Partnership. A few amendments were requested, which Jack explained. Now we await the Bishop’s decision. He and Fr Martin reported briefly on the meeting the previous Monday. John Fells asked about the idea that the spare presbytery would be used for a retired priest. Jack said it would depend on circumstances. Fr Martin said a lot will depend on how fast the situation changes. He felt we shouldn’t leave it for the Bishop to make a decision for us but we, as a partnership, should take ownership and sort it out among ourselves so we have a clear and viable option to present to the Bishop.	
PARISH PRIEST’S POINTS	
<i>School</i> - Fr Martin had a meeting a couple of weeks ago with the Acting Head, Deputy Head and Chair of Governors, asking that someone represent the school at Parish Meetings, but no-one has turned up. He mentioned that we have Fr Matthias, who is over here on a 2-year visa, but we don’t know how long he will stay at St Mary’s, as the Bishop may need to move him. The School is looking at ‘Mini-Vinnies’ to see if it will work and are discussing it with Paul O’Brien. The School Choir may be coming on Youth Sunday and hopefully on Christmas Eve 6.30pm. The Mass Count has been carried out over the past few weeks – about the same level as last year. Reconciliation – Monday 16 th December, 7.30pm. Christmas Masses same as last year. Christmas Bazaar – being run mainly by parents – things still coming in. RCIA – presentation of candidates to parish possibly on 1 st Sunday of Advent. There are number of people on the course. Confirmation enrolment last Wednesday, will present them at Mass on Youth Sunday. Altar Servers went to the St Stephen’s Mass at the Cathedral with the Bishop and many other altar servers from other parishes. Hoping to get some more albs, as we have a shortage of larger sizes. Thursday evenings, we have a prayer group based on Medjugorje. Youngsters will talk about the Youth Service at each Mass on Youth Sunday (it is hoped). There is a plan to give each member of the School Choir a badge saying “Choir”. This will now be given to ALL the regulars who turn up each time to sing. Fr Martin reiterated his concerns about the school apparently insisting children should be in on time despite the previous statement that they will not be marked late if they attend Mass. There is no mention of this concession in the FAQs on the School website. Many children and parents are of the understanding that it doesn’t exist, or that the teachers are unaware of it, as pressure is put on the children to be in class, and if they are not, they are missing perhaps the first ten minutes of the lesson, which puts them at a disadvantage.	

Minutes of Parish Meeting, St. Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch
Wednesday 20th November 2019

Suggestion was made of moving the Mass to 8.15am but this could make it harder for parents to get children there. Eddie suggested an after-school Mass but this would produce its own problems. Further discussion followed. Fr Martin felt this is eroding our Catholic Practice. The Angelus is no longer rung because a teacher is not available to accompany the children.		
SACRAMENTS		
<p>First Holy Communion is at the Reconciliation stage, 3 Saturday mornings.</p> <p>Jane and several others attended the annual catechists training day run by the Youth Service. The Pope has a great interest in encouraging young people. In the afternoon, they split to talk about several different topics. Jackie talked about "Sycamore". It contains 20 modules but you don't have to do all of them. Each video is about 7 minutes. It costs £80 to download the whole set of videos, and they are ideal for RCIA, CAFE, etc. It also supplies all the questions and answers to accompany the videos.</p> <p>Eddie commented that one thing against individuals attending is peer pressure but if they can do something separately, they might go for it.</p> <p>Jackie added that it is for Year 10 and upwards but one lady had used it successfully for Year 9.</p>		
FINANCE – Brian read out a brief report from Joanne.		
YOUTH		
<p>John Fells said the club is going very strongly. Rose had a difficult summer because the number of applications for membership was way above the number of parents assisting. She spent two weeks of her summer trying to get it organised. They ended up with a waiting list of 12. Next year, they will put a deadline for applications.</p> <p>John repeated his comment that the diocese seems to think that youth starts at year 10. We appear to be the only facility that covers years 6-9 and we get no assistance from the diocese.</p> <p>Recently had three candidates for the Jack Petchey Awards. Will try to help those going to Lourdes next year, once the numbers are known. Will be holding a Quiz Night to raise funds for Lourdes. John thanked the parish for paying half the cost of replacing the floodlight. Some of the cost came out of the Jack Petchey Award.</p> <p>Generally going strong, safety commitments are up to standard. Fr Martin said he is very impressed by the way they are organised.</p>		
OTHER BUSINESS		
<p>Frances asked if anyone had thought of a project for Advent. She mentioned a suggestion to make a display with fluorescent stars. She also suggested that everyone be asked to bring one item for the food bank every week. She added that Joanne Challis has posters for food banks.</p> <p>Eddie suggested creating a chain of prayers that you can add to and then hang up but still keep adding to, made of paper-chain strips. Maria said they could start it in the Children's Liturgy and bring it in at the Offertory. Notes for both these projects to go in the newsletter this week.</p>		
DATE OF NEXT PARISH MEETING		
Next Parish Meeting – 15th Jan 2020 changed to 22nd Jan 2020 – Presbytery, 8pm		
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS		
18 th Mar '20, 20 th May '20, 17 th Jun '20 (Ann. Parish Mtg), 15 th Jul '20, 16 th Sept '20, 18 th Nov '20.		
The meeting closed at 20.55 with prayers led by Fr Matthias.		
Brian J. Rodgers Secretary	Signed:	
	Chairperson Eddie Allen	
24th November 2019	Date 22 nd January 2020	