

APPROVED


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

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Fr. Martin Fletcher, Eddie Allen (Chair), Brenda Kivlehan, Jo Luxton, Pat Edwards, Frances Rodgers, Jane Tatam, Teresa Young, Jack How, Brian Rodgers (Secretary).
PARISH REPS/OBSERVERS:	Anita MacFoy, John Fells.
APOLOGIES:	Maria Rayner, Joanne Challis, Gary Redmond.
The meeting was held in the Presbytery and commenced at 20:06 with the Lenten Prayer.	
MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting of 30 th January 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair.	
MATTERS ARISING	ACTIONS
List of contacts for organisations – still in progress. Eddie to send the ‘list so far’ to Brian for distribution so that the Parish Council can check it and add any missing ones if possible. Holders for GDPR forms – Brian showed the type he had in mind, one for the Rota GDPR forms and one for general purpose GDPR forms. Fr Martin suggested removing one of the newspaper holders and fit them there. Lent Project – in hand School Representative to replace Gary will be Alexandra Kearns. Social after Confirmation – organised but need people to help serve. Jo L will put it on the Altar Servers WhatsApp group.	Eddie
CORRESPONDENCE – Lots, all relating to Restructuring	
RESTRUCTURING OF THE DIOCESE	
Eddie is handing over chairing of the meetings to Jack. There will be a meeting of the Stewards of the Gospel, the Clergy and the chairs of the Finance Committees to discuss the latest proposals. Jack outlined where it is at present. The idea was a slow process to let people absorb what is happening and think it through. Under Canon Law, only a parish can close itself. There are various views and a lot of ‘Chinese whispers’. The change to 3 Masses at St Mary’s is not part of the plan – it should happen anyway. However, with a reduction of Masses In the 3 parishes, churches will be fuller but it is hoped the people don’t stop coming.	
PARISH PRIEST’S POINTS	
Fr Martin said that Fr Maurice at Elm Park is away for 4 weeks, which highlights the pending problem at all parishes. Fr Tom is also under medical treatment so is not available all the time. He asked the meeting to keep both priests in their prayers. <i>Bishop’s Visit</i> – he is coming on 24 th March and will celebrate the 9.30am Mass as well as the 11.30am Mass. For 9.30am, there were about 16 children who came for the choir rehearsal. A friend of Michelle’s, Catherine, may be able to come and help. Confirmation will be at the 11.30am Mass. A good group, who have had a great preparation. After that Mass, there will be refreshments in the Hall. <i>Parish Mission</i> – led by Fr Kieran Brady, from 18 th – 22 nd May. He will be coming on weekend 6/7 th April to talk at all Masses. Monday-Wednesday will be as already recorded. Parents were worried about the 7.30pm start on the family Night and wanted to start earlier. Fr Brady reckoned it needn’t be earlier because he does lots of missions and people go the extra mile for such events. It is better to have the same time each evening. On Monday morning, school assembly will be 9.10am. Fr Martin was not sure about Mass. Tuesday will have the school Mass at 1.45pm. The morning services may be 9.15am. Helena Connolly will join him from Monday to Wednesday. She is a musician.	

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<p><i>Holy Week</i> - Monday evening – reconciliation; Thursday evening Mass 7.30pm; Friday Commemoration of the Passion at 3pm; Easter Vigil 8pm; Easter Sunday, Masses as usual.</p> <p>Michael Wigley may now be more available. Fr Martin meeting him to discuss coming fortnightly.</p> <p>CCTV – new cameras, plus two additional ones in porch. Warning stickers need to go up.</p> <p><i>May Queen Procession and Mass</i> – 23rd June.</p> <p><i>Summer Fayre</i> – 29th June.</p> <p>Eddie read a letter from David regarding school start times. They have not changed in many years.</p> <p>Fr Martin said the 9.15am Mass has been working. His concern is the spiritual journey and formation of the children. He witnessed a sudden drop of servers to virtually none. He noticed children running out to go into school. He was in the dark – he is getting a feeling that there is a shift in emphasis in the school to get children in by 8.55am and this is putting pressure on the children and their parents. He felt it is a shame that no-one from school has come to him and talked about it. He spoke to Rainham who have an 8.30am Mass but they have no problems. They have a rota for servers as well. He talked to David and Melissa – they are going to meet all the servers in the school and set up a rota accordingly. He felt the relationship with the school has become unequal. He cited the three-legged stool model – church, school and family.</p> <p>John F said the people in the parish have changed. When he came, they were very strong Irish. Last Sunday, there was no shamrock. Fr Martin said it was ordered but did not arrive in time. He added that the dynamics have changed – there are a few parents in church but rows of them outside the school.</p> <p>Jo L said she can't get her daughter to Mass because she insists on getting into school as she has work to do in the 10mins before school. Maybe it is the teachers putting on the pressure?</p> <p>Fr Martin said an atmosphere has been created that is causing this problem. Eddie asked if it could be because of OFSTED?</p> <p>Jack commented that no-one is going to be there every day – perhaps we could work together to get the message across to parents? Eddie thought that putting the rota in place could restore the mechanism. It becomes self-fulfilling.</p> <p>Fr Martin said there needs to be someone whose role is to encourage this.</p> <p>Brenda couldn't understand why the school's pastoral co-ordinator doesn't come to see Fr Martin. Every school she has worked in, the co-ordinator saw the priest once a week.</p> <p>Fr Martin commented that although about 40 children in the school say they are servers, most of those he gets are not from the school.</p> <p>The Partnership – what do the priests think about it? It is a great challenge, but the lay people need to take over. It could have a positive effect on the health of the church.</p> <p>John F said most of the servers are from good practising families.</p> <p>Jack thought we should put it to the school that we are sure the see the same challenge and invite them to work together to solve it. He will knock up something.</p>	
<p>SACRAMENTS</p>	
<p>Jane said they are nearing the end of the Holy Communion course.</p> <p>She felt the situation being discussed was nobody's fault but from social changes. That is not to say we can't change things. Eddie said it was a similar situation with the Partnership.</p> <p>Jane commented that we have become separated from the school over a number of years. We are a community of faith and should be doing everything together. The children are doing Stations one Friday, raising money for CAFOD.</p> <p>There have a lot of applications for Baptism recently. Maybe it is in parents' minds that to get into St Mary's, the children need to be baptised at St Mary's.</p> <p>Eddie wondered if we should get the school governors and the parish council together. Fr Martin thought this was a good idea.</p>	

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FINANCE – Joanne unable to attend the meeting, so no report.		
YOUTH		
<p>Running a Quiz Night on Saturday week to raise money towards youngsters going to Lourdes.</p> <p>John F was invited by Kathy O’Dea to represent St Mary’s at English Martyrs the previous week. Fr Dominic presented a really good item on a Youth Worker for the three parishes. He spoke to Fr Dominic and got a copy of the document on how to employ a youth worker – every parish has allegedly been informed.</p> <p>He mentioned to Fr Dominic the lack of facilities for 11-14yrs old apart from our Youth Club.</p> <p>Eddie attended the first SOTG meeting about a Youth Worker and told the Parish Council.</p> <p>[Brian to copy the document and send it round.]</p> <p>John invited a lady from English Martyrs to visit the Youth Club and see how it is done.</p> <p>Jack said that in the questionnaire, a main theme was not to lose the youth on the way. Teresa asked what the pay would be for a youth worker.</p> <p>Jack commented that some parishes have more money than others. But there are other possible sources of funding to explore, not just parish income.</p> <p>Eddie felt the idea needed shape but that the document makes it a lot clearer.</p>		Brian
OTHER BUSINESS		
<p>Brian reported that David and Alexandra will alternate attending the parish council meetings.</p> <p>Jane reported that the Van Meenen Room needs sorting out - heat marks on the walls, etc.</p> <p>John F said the ladies toilet in the Parish Hall is in a terrible state. He suggested putting a “do not use” sign on them. Jo L said they need to be replaced.</p> <p>Eddie asked that everyone write down these problems and send them in so they can go to the Finance Committee.</p> <p>Fr Martin, on Finance, mentioned the summer fayre and Christmas bazaar. The CCTV upgrade cost several thousand and now a tile has fallen off the presbytery roof – it needs a cherry-picker or scaffolding in order to replace it – this is costing more than the actual work.</p> <p>Brenda said the Toddler group is dying through lack of support. It has been in the newsletter and advertised in the Baptism course. A new banner has been designed and will be put up. Brenda felt that the gate access has been part of the problem.</p> <p>Brenda also complained about teacher parking. She cannot now come to the church because Tas are parking in the disabled bays every day. Jane thought that the parking issue could also be looked at between the parish and the school.</p> <p>Eddie felt we should be very careful about the meeting – we need a clear and rigid agenda.</p> <p>Jane felt we need to rebuild the relationship.</p>		
DATE OF NEXT PARISH MEETING		
15 th May 2019, 8:00pm The Presbytery (or Van Meenen Room).		
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS		
Parish Annual Meeting – 19 th June 2019. Next Parish Meeting – 17 th July 2019		
The meeting closed with prayers.		
Brian J. Rodgers Secretary	Signed:	
12 nd May 2019	Chairperson	
	Date	