

APPROVED


Minutes of Parish Meeting, St. Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch
Wednesday 30th January 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Fr. Martin Fletcher, Eddie Allen (Chair), Maria Rayner, Joanne Luxton, Pat Edwards, Frances Rodgers, Jane Tatam, Teresa Young, Gary Redmond, Brian Rodgers (Secretary).
PARISH REPS/OBSERVERS:	John Fells.
APOLOGIES:	Stephen Beech, Jackie Caprari, Joanne Challis, Brenda Kivlehan, Jack How.
The meeting was held in the Presbytery and commenced at 20:01 with prayers.	
MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting of 14 th November 2018 were approved and signed by the Chair.	
MATTERS ARISING	ACTIONS
Parish Meeting Room – Letter of thanks to Gerry Glynn - Gary has thanked him verbally. Advent Sticker Tree – went well. Gifts ordered and a thank received from CAFOD. There will be something done in Lent for CAFOD. List of contacts for organisations – Eddie had an earlier action to compile this. Gary suggested sending round the ‘list so far’ to the parish council members to see if they can add any detail.	Eddie
CORRESPONDENCE - None	
RESTRUCTURING OF THE DIOCESE	
<p>Eddie spoke to Jack the evening before the meeting.</p> <p>Eddie attended a meeting of Stewards recently, particular item the Youth Worker proposal – the possibility of hiring one for the deanery. He put a lot of questions to them re: finances, management, autonomy, etc. This produced a follow-up thought as to whether we should have a cross-parish council. They are looking for approval to continue exploring the possibilities. It is not taking control of youth activities from the parishes but creating a deanery structure for youth. The subject of property, habitation etc. also arose, in connection with the priests and any hired worker(s).</p> <p>Fr Martin had also spoken with Jack. Generally, it was felt that the Youth Worker should be on the wish list. More important is how to arrange the weekend Masses. It needs to be the priests that lead this, as it has to be practicable for them. With the max no. of Masses per priest at 3, coming down to 2 priests means reducing the present 9 Masses over the 3 parishes to 6.</p> <p>Eddie commented that this is where the higher-level council would be needed.</p> <p>Gary was a bit puzzled by this but thought the priests should perhaps be kept separate from this, as the priests could change and each have different views.</p> <p>Jane asked if it should not be the higher council who makes the decision about Masses but the Bishop. Eddie replied that the Bishop has passed this back to the parishes to decide. The higher council is only a notion at this stage. He added that the Stewards’ meeting was a deanery one, not just our partnership.</p> <p>Gary felt we should get the parish together, based on the questionnaire responses. Then we can go forward and look at the wider picture. John Fells asked for confirmation that “they” in the discussion referred to the Stewards. He also asked about the limit of 3 Masses per priest on a Sat/Sun. Fr Martin replied that Canon Law states 3 Masses and that is what we should have. We have 4 because, historically, we had 2 or 3 priests. He added that if we are going to come together as parishes, we may need someone overall to organise all the ministries. The Stewards asked if they should explore this. It seems logical to do so.</p> <p>Gary asked if we should set our own timetable and work to produce a blueprint that fits.</p> <p>Eddie suggested we set up a committee that meets regularly, a working, not a talking committee.</p> <p>Fr Martin pointed out that the three parishes need to have a blueprint ready that we all agree with. Then, if the need arises, the Bishop will have something to work with.</p> <p>Teresa pointed out that we can’t just write off a parish. Gary agreed that we need to ensure we</p>	

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<p>include them into everything.</p> <p>Eddie proposed getting a start-up meeting organised and then use that to set the agenda for future meetings. It was agreed to start Wed 13th Feb at 8pm (in the Presbytery?) then every fortnight after that.</p> <p>Gary suggested that everyone put their ideas forward and they can then be collated so that the meeting has structure.</p> <p>We can give feedback to Jack that we are happy for the Stewards to continue investigating the several notions. We get our blueprint ready for, say, June and ask the other parishes to aim for a similar time.</p> <p>Teresa felt the Youth Worker idea is not one we should support at present. She asked if there was any mileage in producing a prayer card, for prayers for the 3 parishes. This was thought by the meeting to be a good idea.</p>	<p>Eddie?</p>
<p>PARISH PRIEST'S POINTS</p>	
<p>A big thank-you for the Christmas celebrations and Bazaar.</p> <p>The Bishop is coming on Sunday 24th March. He will celebrate the 9.30am Mass and at the 11.30am Mass will confirm our young people. After that Mass there will be refreshments in the hall. It is also a parish visitation by the Bishop as he has to inspect the books.</p> <p><i>May Queen Procession - 23rd June.</i></p> <p><i>Summer Fayre – 29th June.</i> There will be a meeting on 11th March to begin preparations for this.</p> <p>During Sunday afternoons in Lent, there will be Exposition, Evening Prayer and Benediction.</p> <p>There will also be Stations, probably Fridays, with different groups leading it each week.</p> <p>The Lent project will be CAFOD. Fr Martin to talk to David about it.</p> <p><i>Parish Mission – with the Redemptorist Fathers weekend 18th/19th May, staying till Wednesday evening.</i> This will probably be a family celebration, with a social in the hall afterwards. Fr Kieran Brady is running it. He will come and preach at all Masses on 6th/7th April. He is talking about having Mass at 10am on the Monday and Tuesday. Trouble is that most people will be working. Jo suggested 8am or even 7.45pm, as many should then be able to attend before going to work. On the Monday and Tuesday evenings, maybe 7.30pm. On Wednesday, 7pm, with/without Mass.</p> <p>Fr Martin said that Julie Newman is interested in working with someone to start Faith in Action, for young people. Gary suggested asking her to come to the meeting on 13th Feb.</p> <p>Fr Martin said he had a problem with the Syro-Malabar Rite group. Some of them came to see him. Their bishop wants them to get together as a bigger group so they asked if they could use the church and the hall <u>every</u> Sunday afternoon. Fr Martin did not think this was a good idea. They now go to Rainham, where the priests meet elsewhere on a Sunday afternoon (and there is better parking). Teresa asked about that Rite. Fr Martin explained about them. Council agreed with his decision but expressed admiration for the strength of their faith.</p> <p>Fr Martin mentioned that we will need to look at First Holy Communion Masses in the future.</p> <p>He is also in discussion with David Leech because the rules have changed and school effectively starts a bit earlier. As a result, parents and children are tending not to come to the 8.30am Mass because they have to be in school by 8.50am. Many of the parents do lots for the school but don't see it as a parish school, so don't contribute to the parish. This is not good – it is splitting the school and church apart. Discussion continued.</p> <p>Fr Martin feels that with less priests, the schools should be the bastions of promoting the faith.</p> <p>Suggestion was made to move the Mass time to 8.15am and for the school to encourage parents and children to attend.</p> <p>Fr Martin said that they are attempting for a second time to introduce Mass at 9.15am on a Monday, with Tuesday Mass at 8.30am. He proposes that there would then be no Mass on Wednesday, the next Mass being Thursday evening. This is in accordance with the Bishop's wishes</p>	<p>Fr Martin/ David</p>

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<p>that each priest should have a proper day off. John queried starting school later. Gary explained the changes in school practice. Our school was ranked 17th in Havering and is now 3rd. It is possible that Fr Matthias may come for a year, visas permitting. Gary said that as he is no longer on the governing body of the school, it would be good to get another representative to attend our meetings.</p>		Gary/David
SACRAMENTS		
<p>Jane said Holy Communion has been a year of challenges. Attitudes are definitely changing in parental aspirations. Baptisms – quite a few. These are the people we should be looking at. Confirmation – Gary said Mary thought we have a wonderful group. Need to get the parents to organise the social after Confirmation on 24th March.</p>		Gary/Mary?
FINANCE – Joanne unable to attend the meeting, so no report.		
YOUTH		
<p>John has been out of action, as has Rose but the stand-ins did a wonderful job. Going to have a quiz night to raise funds for those going to Lourdes. Over 90 members. The first evening this term had 65 present. It covers ages 11-14. Still do the Duke of Edinburgh Award. John added that there is still nothing for over-14s.</p>		
OTHER BUSINESS		
<p>Jane reported that the Van Meenen Room is freezing – the heaters are inadequate (unless you put them on an hour before – Brian). Gary suggested changing them for oil-filled heaters, which can be left on a time switch. This needs pricing up and putting to the Finance Cttee. John said the girls’ toilets are disgusting. They get left filthy and haven’t been cleaned for ages. Jo added that the bowls and seats get covered in excrement. Gary suggested getting it costed for sorting out and put it as a project for fund-raising. Van Meenen Room door - Jo mentioned that when groups are in there, people can just walk in. She suggested fitting an additional, night-latch lock so that when people are in there, with the mortice lock unlocked, they can drop the night-latch and people then have to request access. Perhaps fit a doorbell. CCTV is being fitted with better cameras, with an additional one in the church porch. Jo asked about parking issues. Gary said nothing has been done but the problem has eased. Pat reported that the overflow from next door was dripping on the wall. Gary will investigate. She also asked if we should be doing more with getting parents together. Fr Martin is still trying to get One World going.</p>		
DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING		
8:00pm The Presbytery (or Van Meenen Room).		
Date to be sorted out.		
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS		
Dates to be sorted out.		
The meeting closed with prayers at 21:26.		
Brian J. Rodgers Secretary	Signed:	
	Chairperson	
2 nd February 2019	Date	