

## **Minutes Parish Council Meeting Tuesday April 13<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

**Present:** Father Walsh; Russell Brynes (chair); Dominic and Theresa Rice; Peter Twomey; Peter Delamere; Kathleen Baster; Columba Timmins (minutes).

**Apologies:** Catherine Evans.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

**Opening for Mass:** Masses up to and including the Ascension, plus possible First Holy Communion Masses, were discussed with regard to booking, stewarding and spacing requirements. With reference to Ascension Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> May, it was decided that no booking would be required for the Thursday morning Mass, and that the regular Wednesday evening Mass the night before would be a vigil Mass.

Cleaning progresses as required. Noted that the Church, Narthex and Hall have all been signed off with the Diocese for use, but not the kitchen. The latter cannot be used for refreshments before June 21<sup>st</sup> according to the current national 'roadmap', and it will need thorough cleaning in line with Diocese guidance before use. On agenda for discussion at May meeting.

**Roadmap out of lockdown:** There are many queries we have as a parish about how things will be in church after June 21<sup>st</sup>. What changes to booking and spacing arrangements will be permissible? Sudden changes to safety regulations may be difficult for many of us to get used to. It is likely that mask wearing and some spacing will continue, and Father suggests a couple of months' transition towards more 'normality' in September. It is probable that there will be guidance from the Diocese on how to proceed. Nothing can be certain while it is still possible the roadmap may change.

Dominic is gathering together a list of queries and issues to be followed up at next month's meeting.

**Formation:** A number of children are due to make their First Holy Communion over the next few months. All being well, it should be possible to have a dedicated FHC Mass on a Saturday in early July. At this Mass, children whose date is not already booked could make their first Communion, and all the year's new communicants and their families could attend. Hopefully, a celebration afterwards for the children together will be possible.

Confirmation: Kathleen is working with other parents on the best way to manage preparation. It may be helpful to provide a communal arrangement online.

**Evangelisation:** No items for discussion. It was suggested that 'Live Simply' principles – aiming as a parish to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor – are a means of evangelisation, because we manifest the inspiration of our faith by the way we live.

**Community Sponsorship Scheme:** No new information. Peter D maintains contact with Sue Tym, the Diocese facilitator.

**Covenant with the Poor:** A written piece explaining the proposal has been shared with the meeting. It was agreed to put this on the parish website, with bulletin and whatsapp alerts to read it and feed back. It will be circulated with the parish email update.

Other suggestions: each of us to talk personally to 4 or 5 people about the Covenant idea to seek feedback, and when conditions allow, give a talk about the proposal after Mass.

Father proposes the item go on the Finance Committee agenda, and that a Finance representative attend the meeting to discuss the financial aspects.

**Bulletin and website:** Some discussion on how to develop these. Ideas to be sought and collated and item to stay on agenda.

**Update St. Michael's:** Peter T. has been overseeing clearing and making the monument areas safe. Grounds maintenance takes place every month, at a cost of c. £600.00. The building is currently in

good condition; any work on it needs assessing in terms of its being a listed building. The parish has received a generous bequest specifically for the maintenance of St. Michael's church and grounds, which potentially eases its call on parish finances for several years.

**Rebuilding Community:** An online quiz and get together is in the pipeline, compiled by a member of the parish..

**Creation Garden:** Help from the parish community is needed for the ongoing work in the church grounds.

Suggestions: sharing ideas; donating and planting plants (favouring pollinator-friendly flowers) in the various bare spaces ; helping with a session of wood chipping and general tidying; seed sowing and flower and vegetable growing; making nest boxes over autumn. Any of these could involve parishioners of all ages.

**Live Simply Parish:** As we come back together as a parish and rebuild our daily lives might we consider the principles of living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor as the basis for our renewed parish activity? Cafod proposes a Live Simply Award programme which could help us focus on ways we might do this. There is an abundance of information and resources on the Cafod website. This needs distilling for the next meeting. The overall guide can be found on the link [https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/29184/333396/version/4/file/Live\\_Simply\\_Guide\\_for\\_web.pdf](https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/29184/333396/version/4/file/Live_Simply_Guide_for_web.pdf)

**AOB:** Attention was drawn to a newly formed charity 'Fellowship and Aid to the Christians of the East'.

The charity has organised a webinar on the future of Christianity in the Middle East with Cardinal Sako (Head of the Chaldean Catholic Church who hosted Pope Francis ' recent visit to Iraq) and Cardinal Fitzgerald (former Apostolic Nuncio to Egypt and delegate to the Arab League of States). It takes place at 10am on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April. More information and booking for the event can be found on [www.cardinalsako.eventbrite.com](http://www.cardinalsako.eventbrite.com)

The meeting closed with a prayer.

**Next meeting Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm.**