

## St Vincent's Parish Council

*"The parish council works with the priest to serve the people"*

### Meeting minutes 28 November 2024

**Present:** Russell Brynes (Chair), Catherine Evans, Cath Livingston, Maria Mawson (Minutes), Lizanne Rana, Dominic Rice, Theresa Rice, Dominic Simon, Fr. Walsh.

#### 1. Opening prayer

#### 2. Apologies: Louise Heaton

#### 3. Actions & matters arising from the 30 October meeting not covered by the agenda

- ⑩ Parish Prayer Book. A substantial number of prayers have been submitted and collated, around 16 pages so far. It was agreed that the Rosary should also be included. Lizanne & Louise will discuss with Fr. Walsh before arranging printing.
- Children's Mass on Christmas Eve. As yet, nobody has come forward from the children's liturgy group to organise this. TR is not available to coordinate music and it's not yet clear which members of the music group might be available. It was agreed that the Mass should still take place, and children could be invited to come in nativity costume.
- Jubilee Prayer. This will be said from January, and it was agreed that the prayer would be printed on slips and left on benches, as including it in the bulletin every week would take up too much space.

#### 4. The Mass

- Streaming services update. Fr. Walsh is still investigating.
- Bidding prayers. A notice will go in the bulletin later in December to invite interested parishioners to a meeting in January. RB has not yet had the opportunity to speak to the individual identified as a potential coordinator.
- Quiet Masses on Sunday evening without music. This had been raised by a parishioner at the open parish meeting. The Council discussed the issue, and although some people might prefer a quieter Mass occasionally, it would be necessary to consult further to assess demand. It was also pointed out that people with certain sensory conditions might benefit from a quieter Mass. Fr. Walsh pointed out that liturgical guidance stresses the importance of including music in the celebration of Mass. It was agreed that the issue could be discussed further as part of the forthcoming inclusion audit. DR will send a copy of these minutes to the person who raised the question so that they are aware of the discussion. **Action: DR**

#### 5. The Church

- Diocesan statistics and consultation. The meeting discussed the pastoral letter issued in November <https://hallam-diocese.com/pastoral-letter-november-2024/>. The Bishop intends to establish a Diocesan Pastoral Council to consider the outcomes of the consultation. More information may be forthcoming at the Sheffield Deanery meeting on 9 December. **Action: Fr. Walsh**
- Synod 2021-2024. The meeting considered the final report from the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops <https://www.synod.va/en/news/final-document-of-the-xvi-assembly.html>. The report has been widely discussed in the Catholic media and Fr. Walsh shared a summary of an article from the Catholic Herald. The Council discussed some of the key issues, and it was agreed that Fr. Walsh could

report this at the Deanery meeting. It was agreed to include a link to the report in the bulletin. **Action: MM to write item for the bulletin.**

- Evangelisation. The meeting discussed ways of demonstrating how we live our Christian faith, and it was agreed that inter church events, play groups and lunch clubs that are open to anybody are all ways of welcoming people. Fr. Walsh would be happy for the church to be used if parishioners wanted to run toddler or play groups. **Action: MM to write a notice for the bulletin.** It was suggested that a Parish Mission for the Jubilee Year could be another way of demonstrating our faith, and this will be discussed further at the next meeting. **Action: MM to include on the agenda.**

## **6. Building the Community**

- Inclusion and accessibility. There have been no responses yet to the call in the bulletin seeking volunteers to work on the inclusion audit. RB will speak at all masses on 1 December. It may be better to approach individuals that could be interested. The draft inclusion policy is available on the home page of the web site. Fr. Walsh mentioned that a railing has now been installed on the ramp entrance leading up to the church.
- International food event. A small number of dishes will be served at the bazaar on 30 November. It is hoped that a larger event will take place on 1 March, and this will be discussed further at the next meeting in January.

## **7. Parish Council**

- Open parish meeting 23 October. Notes from the meeting are available on the parish web site <http://www.stvincentschurch.com/parish-council.html> and have been sent to those attending the meeting. **Action: MM will write a notice for the bulletin to make other parishioners aware.** The questions raised have been discussed by the Council. The parish maintenance group is looking into the opening speed of the automatic door.
- TR announced her intention to stand down from the Parish Council after the January meeting, and was thanked for her service.

## **8. Children and young people – nothing to discuss**

### **9. Live Simply updates**

The group is working on a guidance sheet for those booking the hall. The Live Simply award plaque has been put in the narthex and an article was included in the Hallam Bridge.

### **10. Safeguarding – nothing to discuss**

### **11. Any other business**

It was pointed out that the church heating is set very high, and windows have to be opened to keep the temperature comfortable, which wastes energy. Fr. Walsh agreed to look into this again. **Action: Fr Walsh**

### **Date for next meeting**

Wednesday 22 January, 7pm