

Minutes Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Thursday June 3rd. 2021

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

The meeting started and ended with a prayer.

No issues from previous minutes.

Opening for Mass: Present arrangements continue until June 21st. Mass bookings are busier but with no major problems.

Arrangements for cleaning after June 21st will be flagged up with Peter Twomey at tomorrow's monthly clean (June 4th). Noted that the kitchen will need to be thoroughly cleaned in time for prospective hall use after June 21st. (This minute item was shared with Peter on June 4th.)

The stewarding rota is fine, but may become more difficult after June 21st with volunteers more likely to be away on summer weekends.

Much depends on what happens on June 21st. There is now uncertainty about restrictions easing because of a new variant of Covid. If restrictions are lifted, current arrangements for Mass will be modified as planned in May meeting.

First Holy Communion: The final group of children will make their FHC at a separate Mass at 12 midday on Sunday 11th July. It is hoped this can be a celebration for all the new communicants, with kitchen facilities available for refreshments afterwards.

Children's liturgy: to start after June 21st.

Confirmation: there are 15 candidates attending formation sessions with their parents via zoom meetings, one group on Sundays, one on Mondays, each led by a catechist. The sessions consist in watching a video, followed by private family discussion, followed by whole group discussion. The young people are engaging well with discussion in this format. A further positive is that families unable to follow the current timetable can 'catch up' with the videos themselves at a later date. One negative expressed was that it is less easy for the catechist to clarify incorrect thinking in an internet group. It is hoped that there will be a face to face retreat for the whole group at the end of the course. The confirmation Mass will be in the Autumn.

Ideas for Evangelisation and rebuilding communities- possible ideas:

Parish pilgrimage to Padley. Involving transport for the less mobile and different distance options for walking routes for those able. Prayer and picnic at the destination.

Parish get together in the Hall with picnic inside or outside depending on the weather.

Covenant with the Poor: Father and Russell will invite James Walters from the finance committee to the next meeting to look at financial questions. This is an information seeking exercise only. More discussion of what a covenant would entail will be invited later in the year, as understanding develops and parishioners can meet face to face. To be looked at in September.

Bulletin changes: As per May minutes. Parish to be informed of proposed changes via current bulletin and invited to submit items for the 'new look' bulletin. The number of Day by Day booklets required will be reassessed. The change will likely take place from September.

A Live Simply parish? (see Cafod website for more detailed information)

The 3 principles -Living Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor – were suggested for consideration as a basis for parish life as we come back together after the various lockdowns. They can be considered at individual, household, parish and diocese level. There are many potential areas we could look at, but a ready example is offered by our consumer society. Could we -

- buy less
- throw less away, and
- consider purchases thoughtfully? Where they have come from and have people, animals or nature been maltreated in their production?

This is easier said than done: it requires time, sometimes inconvenience, often self-restraint.

Most importantly it requires prayer for help and discernment. But if it became a parish effort, we could find mutual encouragement in our efforts.

Living Simply applied to parish management in the area of buying less, throwing less away and considering purchases thoughtfully, would entail looking at 'housekeeping' – eg what sort of cleaning materials we buy, how much plastic and paper waste we create, whether there is an effort to buy fair-trade and/or environmentally friendly kitchen stock items.

It was noted that these ideas might interest young people in the parish, and Father suggests we ask young people for help with this. For example to form a 'Green team' to look at parish life? This idea to be followed up.

Some reservations expressed: the breakdown in family life is the major problem we face as a society, rather than the way we over consume; some parishes have 'lost their way' when following Live Simply principles. Prayer for guidance from the Holy Spirit must remain at the root of any action. (Cafod offer a Live Simply Award. This would need planning and assessment and usually takes 18-24 months to achieve. It is not under consideration for St. Vincent's at this time. However a meeting member described a church which had been notably enlivened alongside its working towards the award.)

Garden of Creation: still growing.

There has been a request to use the Church and Hall from an Eritrean Community. It was considered as unmanageable practically for the parish at present.

Next Meeting : 7.45 Thursday 1st July - in person or on zoom depending on what restrictions allow.