

Minutes Parish Pastoral Council meeting Tuesday September 21st 2021-09-23 7.30pm

(The meeting took place in the Hall, windows and door open – the first in person rather than online since March 2020.)

Present: Father Walsh; Russell Brynes (chair); Peter Delamere; Mick Howell; Kathleen Baster; Catherine Evans; Christine Hopewell; Theresa Rice; Columba Timmins (minutes).

Apologies: Dominic Rice; Peter Twomey.

The meeting opened with a prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Matters arising from previous meeting: A parishioner has come forward for the **safeguarding representative** role and their name has been forwarded to the Diocese for approval.

A number of parishioners have volunteered to help with **cleaning**. A parishioner has itemised a list of weekly cleaning tasks for looking at weekly. It is in the 'sink room' next to the sacristy. It is agreed that when current stocks of cleaning materials are run down, they will be **replaced with environmentally friendly materials**. Bio-D suggested - These could be sourced through Traidcraft. Toilet roll made from recycled paper also available through Traidcraft. Local shop 'Unwrapped' is a good source for such items also.

Father's suggestion for **posters for kitchen re environmentally friendly housekeeping**. Russell will ask Notre Dame RE contact if students there can help with designing posters.

There has been further discussion within the **SVP** re ID cards and visiting in pairs. Lance Philpott has advised the latter may be discretionary. Peter D. remarked visits in pairs can be more effective.

Diocesan Sponsorship of refugee family. Work continues on the application which should be ready in October. Several parishioners from St. Vincent's are involved, and there will be opportunity for wider parish involvement when the application is approved and a family is identified.

Agenda.

Opening for Mass: Review of remaining Covid related restrictions.

Opening of doors and windows to continue; ventilation remains important to reduction of virus spread. Hand sanitisers remain. Mask-wearing during Mass remains a Diocesan recommendation for continuing protection of the most vulnerable among us and remains requested.

Contact details at Sunday Masses discussed: this remains a diocesan requirement. To be continued.

Booking system to be discontinued.

Stewarding at Sunday Masses to continue for welcoming and answering questions.

Mass card leaflets to be replaced on benches. Votive candles may be replaced.

Hall bookings are resuming. Users of the kitchen and hall are told there is no caretaker and asked to clean as necessary after their events.

Discussion of the Sign of Peace –could we acknowledge each other with a nod or gesture in the absence of shaking hands? No conclusion reached.

Current arrangements for Communion to remain.

To be reviewed at next meeting in time for Advent: Singing ; Altar servers ; Coffee after Sunday morning Mass.

Parish Formation: First Holy Communion session was successful. Circumstances dictated that some of the preparation was quite intensive this year. Kathleen advises a period of weeks for preparation is preferable when times allow. This is the 3rd year of preparation alongside the families and is working well.

Children's liturgy – arrangements for resumption are underway.

Confirmation- retreat for candidates Sunday 26th September at the Hub. Confirmation Mass midday at St. Vincent's on Sunday 3rd October.

Evangelisation and Rebuilding Community. Father says about 50% of the congregation has not returned to the Sunday Masses yet. He plans to compose a newsletter with Josh from the Mission Hub, to deliver to people in the Parish Directory bringing them up to date with Church opening and welcoming their return to parish life.

Synod on Synodality. Father has received a Diocesan letter re preparations for this Synod called by Pope Francis. Synodality means 'on the path together'- and the aim is to consult with laity and clergy about their experience of Church and their thoughts on its future path. Consultation in parishes is to take place from this October until March next year. Two Diocesan representatives will oversee the exercise, and parishes are asked to facilitate consultation within their own community. This was new information for the meeting: further research will be done and shared with the parish. There is a step by step guide to the Synod on the Hallam Diocese website.

<https://hallam-diocese.com/synod-2021-2023/>

Efforts will be made to reach all parishioners, not only those with online access, using the bulletin, printed handouts and word of mouth.

Care for Creation/Living Simply – brief review of housekeeping matters : see Matters Arising ; water butts installed for saving rainwater for the garden. **SVP** looking into shared lifts to Mass.

Cafod Harvest Fast Day October 1st. The appeal is on behalf of those already suffering the effects of droughts, floods and fires in the climate crisis. No appeal talk after Mass because of length of Mass considerations, but Father will announce the appeal and will place information in the bulletin.

Covenant with the Poor: Revisiting the comments received about this idea, these were mainly positive. The reservations about making a parish financial commitment remain valid. Much activity supporting the poor and vulnerable goes on in the parish, often 'unsung'. Might it be encouraging for us to know more of what we do to share what we have? The SVP, UCM work and St. Justin's are the more well known examples of our covenant with the poor. The parish is giving an annual donation to the S6 foodbank. Could we extend our awareness of organisations working towards alleviation of local and global poverty?

Eg **Acts 435** –a Christian charity which pairs up those who have some money to give, with those in immediate need. <https://acts435.org.uk/> The SVP are able to post requests on this site if necessary. The charity guarantees that 100% of the donation goes straight to the person in need.

Church Action on Poverty: This is a national ecumenical social justice charity tackling poverty in the United Kingdom. There is a Sheffield branch campaigning locally on the effects of poverty on people and communities in Sheffield. Several parishioners from St. Vincent's have joined their annual urban pilgrimages in the past. These follow a route round a specific part of the city, highlighting and visiting local churches, mosques and projects which seek to combat poverty. Holy Family Arbourthorne, Mother of God parish and St. Wilfrid's have been en route on previous walks.

<http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/groups/sheffield/>

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Printed copies of the minutes will be available in the Narthex for those not accessing online.

Next meeting in the Hall Tuesday October 19th 7.30pm