

Minutes Parish Pastoral meeting Tuesday November 16th 2021. 7.30pm.

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

Apologies: Mick Howell.

The meeting opened with a prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Matters arising from previous minutes: no new issues; opening and use of church and hall are proceeding without problems.

The Mass.

Altar Servers: there are some new candidates. Father will provide 3 / 4 training sessions from w/e of 21st November. To include instruction for hand sanitising when handling communal items.

4 servers and 2 readers have come forward from the Confirmation Group for the young people's evening Mass on the 21st.

Music to begin from 21st November (Christ the King). Theresa R. directing this. Music group will not be masked; congregation to remain so, but encouraged to sing.

Sunday evening does not have an established music liturgy; this could be something for future discussion. Noted that the 'spotify' music before Mass is appreciated.

Advent. Outside Crib in hand (Peter T.)

Christmas Masses : it was considered unwise to restart the children's Christmas pageant Mass this year. Vigil masses 5pm and 7pm on Christmas Eve (a Friday) and 9.30 Christmas Day. Booking won't be required. The Bank Holiday Monday Mass will be at St. Vincent's rather than St. Michael's.

Parish Formation.

Communion for the housebound to restart in the New Year. Catherine E. will verify safeguarding requirements for this ministry. They may require visiting in pairs, with the Communion Minister having a DBS check. We may need to recruit more communion ministers.

Children's liturgy has restarted. Pauline D. is following up rota requirements.

Rebuilding community/evangelisation.

Synod. Father has done a talk for clergy explaining the synodal process –a journeying together, listening especially to those on the fringes.

Russell asked if Father would provide a similar talk during Mass.

Feeling within the meeting was that the synod ideas are presented in language difficult to understand, which in itself forms a barrier to communication.

There have been 13 responses to the initial questions posed so far. The parish needs to extend the consultation, perhaps have different group meetings, and also extend the questions to encourage more discussion of our journey in faith.

Ann B. has volunteered to be one of the two collators of responses. Another, preferably male, volunteer is required. It was suggested that Father ask some parishioners in person, as no-one has come forward yet.

The consultation period for parishes has been extended to August 2022.

Another suggestion was that the synodal process, when we have made sense of it, should be followed through for the sake of the parish community itself, without feeling too pressured by a deadline for presentation to the Diocese. The exercise of having conversations with each other would be valuable in itself.

The invitation letter to return to church post pandemic restrictions, to be delivered to the 230 households in the parish directory, will be ready to go out for Advent. It will include various pieces of information. Peter T. is overseeing this.

Coffees after Sunday Mass: Marie M. proposes Jan 9th. She will proceed to sort out a rota and request more volunteers if necessary.

Living Simply/ Environmental policy.

A message on management of the kitchen (avoidance of single use plastic; use of recycling bins etc) has been shared with the parish and will be displayed in the kitchen.

There was agreement that the church temperature often feels very warm. Adjusting the thermostat is not straightforward as the controls are computerised, but Father will ask Steve M. to set the heating one degree lower. This will save on carbon emissions and on the church gas bill.

An item about St. Vincent's garden and efforts to live simply is on the diocesan website.

At the request of the Diocesan Formation team, Ann B. has provided an article for December Hallam News on the question 'Is doing something about climate change a moral obligation for Catholics?'

Covenant with the Poor:

Review: a request to revisit the idea of a Covenant with the Poor was brought to the council in November 2020 from the St. Justin group. During the year the parish has been asked for comment and the finance committee consulted. There was limited response from the parish, but 2 detailed comments- one in favour and one against. Feedback from Father regarding parish finances informs the decision that St. Vincent's is unable to put together a Covenant with the Poor, in terms of committing a set amount of parish finances to identified charitable causes.

As parish groups return to activity, we will make efforts to identify the extensive work already done in the parish to share with the poor. St. William's parish recently renewed Covenant was shared with council members to educate ourselves on the various local, national and international projects they support.

<https://www2.stwilliamofyorksheffield.org.uk/miscellaneous/covenant-with-the-poor>

It was noted that St. William's first covenant was established in 1998 and the current renewal is the result of long experience with the idea. St. Vincent's is a different parish with its own areas of development.

Dominic R. and Peter D. will work during the next 2-3 months on a list of St. Vincent's charitable links.

AOB:

The parish council has been operating with its current membership now for nearly 2 years. The onset of the pandemic required its 'firming up' as a parish pastoral council, not least for practical management of the restrictions presented.

In Spring 2022 we will ask the parish for feedback and review roles and membership.

The meeting ended with a prayer.

Next Meeting Tuesday 11th January 7.30pm

