St Vincent's Open Parish Meeting 23 October 2024, 7pm

Apologies and attendance.
Apologies were received from Orla Wilson and Columba Timmins.
Around 20 people attended, including several Parish Council members who were asked to introduce themselves. Russell Brynes expressed thanks to all those that had given up their time to come. It was noted that the attendance was slightly disappointing given the size of the parish.

Living simply, sustainably and ethically.
The Live Simply group is working on an ethical purchasing policy, and new guidance for kitchen users on using Fair Trade and sustainable materials is being produced. It would also be beneficial to have guidance for groups booking the Hall, to outline Live Simply principles, and to encourage them to adopt these principles. There is no guidance to give to people when they book the hall at the moment. The Live Simply group is happy to prepare a short guide for Fr. Walsh to pass on when taking bookings. **Action: Live Simply Group**

Year of Jubilee 2025
The Jubilee begins officially on 24 December with a Mass by the Holy Father in St Peter's Square in Rome, and the opening of the Holy Door. The theme for the Jubilee is Pilgrims of Hope. The Parish Council has discussed a number of ideas for events to mark the Jubilee, such as short local pilgrimages or a mission. In addition, Lizanne Rana and Louise Heaton are collecting family prayers for a parish prayer book.

Two parishioners from St Vincent's (Catherine Livingston and Katherine Ryan-Murray) were invited to join the Diocesan Commission preparing for Jubilee 2025, on behalf of people with disabilities. They have shared a number of documents with the Parish Council outlining the work that has been done. This is an opportunity to build on work that has already been done to ensure that St Vincent's is an inclusive and accessible parish, and to show leadership to other parishes in diocese. The Parish Council will discuss how to make further progress with Catherine and Katherine. **Action: Parish Council**

A number of other points were raised on accessibility. One parishioner mentioned that the external lights weren't on one Sunday evening. Making sure they are switched on needs to be built into welcomers duties for evening Mass. **Action: Dominic Rice will discuss with Fr. Walsh.**
The automatic door timer also needs to be looked at, as it opens outwards very quickly and could knock a frail person over. **Action: Fr Walsh will ask the maintenance group to investigate.**
Fr. Walsh mentioned that a railing is being installed on the ramp.

New Lectionary
Fr. Walsh confirmed that a new edition of the lectionary that contains readings for the Mass will be introduced from the first Sunday of Advent. It was pointed out that this change has been imposed by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales with no consultation. The new lectionary uses the English Standard Version of the Bible (Catholic edition) and some people feel that this is not a good translation, and does not represent progress.
The diocese organised a number of events about the new lectionary for readers and other interested parties, but few from St. Vincent's have been able to attend, so Fr. Walsh is hoping to invite Matthew Hazell from the diocese to speak to readers and parishioners. **Action: Fr. Walsh**
Fr. Walsh agreed to buy some new missals that readers can use to help them prepare their readings. **Action: Fr. Walsh**
A parishioner recommended the Catholic Calendar app Universalis which includes Mass readings, prayers and other information. It was agreed that details will be shared in the bulletin. **Action: Fr. Walsh**

Quiet Masses
A parishioner asked if it would be possible not to have music at Sunday evening Mass, as some people might prefer a quieter Mass. Currently there is some music at evening Mass, though less than at the morning Mass. It was suggested that opinions could be gathered from others who

attend the evening Mass. An occasional quiet Mass could be considered, as this would fit with work around inclusion, catering for different sensory needs. **Action: Fr. Walsh to consider.**

Another person asked if the Saturday evening Mass would be reinstated, but Fr. Walsh said this is not being considered. Mass timings at St Vincent's & Sacred Heart have been coordinated so that the priests can cover for each other when necessary.

Bidding Prayers/Prayers of the Faithful
Fr. Walsh currently prepares these, but in some parishes they are written by parishioners. When Fr. Walsh first came to St. Vincent's parishioners did write bidding prayers but he felt they were not always appropriate. **Action: To be discussed further by the Parish Council.**

Christmas Masses
A Midnight Mass was re-introduced last year, including Gregorian chants. There was some positive feedback about this from some at the meeting. Fr. is open to doing Midnight Mass again, although there may not be enough singers to include the chants. **Action: The Parish Council will determine Christmas Mass times at the next meeting.**

Young people
The definition of young people is generally considered to be those aged 11-18. It's not known how many there are in the parish. Some young people from St Vincent's have been involved in a wider diocesan group, and there's a noticeboard for them in the hall. Some have done readings at evening Mass but this doesn't happen on a regular basis.

Children's Liturgy
Representatives from the children's liturgy group confirmed that a decision had been taken not to use musical instruments at the end of Mass, as there were some logistical issues that made this problematical. The group has also decided not to have the children processing and talking to Fr. Walsh on a regular basis, as this has created some pressure to get activities done on time. Children may process from time to time depending on the activity that has taken place, and the group will keep this under review. Some at the meeting said how much they enjoyed seeing the children with Fr. Walsh
There was some discussion about the wide range of ages attending the children's liturgy, and this can present some challenges, but also opportunities. There was some discussion about whether there should be age limits (e.g. limiting to those who have not made their first Communion). There were differing views about this. Some parishes have separate groups for different ages but this would require many more volunteers.

Healing Mass
Fr. Walsh is considering doing a Healing Mass with anointing of the sick and to help people come to terms with things that are troubling them. It was pointed out that it may not be clear to everyone what a Healing Mass is, so this would need to be explained. Previous Masses for the sick have also had a social element, with refreshments afterwards, and transport arranged for housebound parishioners. It was noted that the Parish St. Vincent de Paul group could play a role in this.
A parishioner mentioned that the Mission Hub recently held a Healing Mass open to anyone. A healing blessing could also be said at regular Masses. There is no comprehensive list of people in care homes or housebound.

Housebound parishioners
There was some discussion about the lack of new members for groups such as the Union of Catholic Mothers, which is impacting on the groups ability to continue work such as home visits. The St. Vincent de Paul Society is always keen to know about housebound parishioners that might benefit from home visits.

The meeting concluded at 8.30 with a prayer.