

St Vincent's Pastoral Parish Council Minutes 18 January 2023

Present: Russell Brynes (Chair), Catherine Evans, Maria Mawson (Minutes), Theresa Rice, Columba Timmins, Fr. Walsh.

1. Opening prayer

2. Apologies: Kathleen Baster, Dominic Rice

3. Actions & matters arising from the previous meeting not covered by the agenda

The Warm Hub has started operating and is working well.

The Christmas postcard was completed and distributed.

The Children's Liturgy is going well.

4. The Mass

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

DR had proposed a meeting for new extraordinary ministers, and there was a discussion around the benefits of ensuring consistency of practice by those who take Communion to people in their home. If a list of names of Ministers is provided to Fr. Walsh he is happy to organise a meeting.

Action: Fr Walsh to arrange a meeting with those who visit the sick with Communion.

Offertory procession

Welcomers at 9.30 Mass have started to ask people to take part in the Offertory Procession, and this is working well. The practice has not been introduced at the 6.30 Mass. Fr. Walsh has reintroduced hymns at the 6.30 Mass.

Reverence for the Eucharist: deferred to the next meeting.

Review of Christmas Masses: agreed that everything had gone well.

Lent & Easter Services 2023

Times were agreed as follows: Ash Wednesday Masses 9.30am and 7pm

Holy Thursday Mass 7pm, Good Friday 3pm

Easter Vigil 8.30pm (timed with sunset)

Easter Sunday 9.30am and 6pm

5. The Church

Contactless collection. A visitor had asked about this, and following discussion it was agreed that it would be useful to put this in place.

Action: Fr. Walsh to talk to Fr. Lee at the Mission Hub to get more information about the system they use.

Heating the church and hall. Discussions are ongoing between the Live Simply group and Steve Mulhall.

6. Building the community

Welcoming. This is a valued Ministry and is working well. It was agreed that welcomers should remind people about tea and coffee after Mass, and that a reminder from Fr. Walsh at the end of Mass would also be helpful.

Action: Welcomers and Fr. Walsh to do reminders about tea/coffee after Mass.

Display board. KB has photos of parish council members for the noticeboard and CE is doing some work on other parish groups & contacts. The board needs to be in the narthex for maximum visibility and the existing white board is most suitable.

Action: KB and CE to continue work on this

Support group meetings

Fr. Walsh has been approached by the diocese about providing meeting facilities once a month for the Calix support group. It was agreed that the parish should support this. The group meets on Mondays when St Justin's meetings take place but it was agreed there there's enough space for both groups to meet. **Action:** Fr. Walsh to arrange

Parish booklet.

DR is continuing work on this but is waiting for responses from contacts. Fr. Walsh mentioned that his list of parishioners also needs updating and he is working with a parishioner to do this. TR is willing to be involved and knows of software that could help.

Action: Fr. Walsh & TR

Contact card

The sentence that asks if people want the bulletin to be emailed needs to be removed, as currently there's no facility in place to do that. It was suggested that a more general statement asking for consent to be contacted could be added. The card is then ready to be printed.

Action: ????? (I haven't got anything in my notes about the next steps.)

Bulletin

The meeting discussed ways of reducing print copies. It was agreed that welcomers could start to let people know that the bulletin is available on the web site and the Whatsapp group, so that people don't take a printed copy if they don't need one. RB pointed out that print copies are useful during Mass to refer to the list of parishioners needing prayers. CE suggested that instead of proactively offering print copies, they could be left in a box or basket for people to help themselves.

Parish Mission/Retreat

This is planned for a weekend in March, to be facilitated by the Friars of the Renewal. The exact programme is to be confirmed but will include visits to schools.

Action: Fr. Walsh to arrange and confirm dates.

Blessed Carlo Arcutis exhibition: no new information.

Parish Council mission statement

RB reported that the ideas shared were more along the lines of a Parish statement and were not suitable. He proposed "The parish council helps the priest to serve the people" and this was agreed.

Action: statement to be included on future meeting documents and the display board.

7. Children & young people

At the moment one Minister does all the readings and the bidding prayers at the 6.30 Mass and it has been suggested that young people could be supported do one of the readings. Agreed that this should go ahead.

Action: RB will email Bernadette to confirm

RB has also spoken to Sue MacDonald about a regular youth Mass on Sunday evening.

8. The Parish & the environment

CAFOD Live Simply Parish award.

St Vincent's is registered for this, at CT reported that St Francis Parish is also registered. The Live Simply group is growing & has developed contacts with the student Catholic Society. The Award Plan will be launched on 29 January, and covers living simply, living sustainably, and living in solidarity with people.

CT had been contacted about progressing a Covenant with the Poor. This has been proposed before with little response, and in CTs view the Live Simply Living in Solidarity with People covers the same ground. The meeting agreed that Live Simply should replace Covenant with the Poor on future agendas.

9. Safeguarding

CE asked if there were any safeguarding issues around the organisation of the pantomime. None were identified.

10. Dates of future meetings

1 March, 19 April, 31 May. All at 7pm in the small meeting room.

11. Closing Prayer