

St Vincent's Parish Council

"The parish council works with the priest to serve the people"

Meeting minutes 29 November 2023

Present: Russell Brynes (Chair), Catherine Evans, Josh Glicklich, Maria Mawson (Minutes), Dominic Rice, Theresa Rice, Fr. Walsh,

1. Opening prayer

2. Apologies: None received.

3. Actions & matters arising from the 30 August meeting not covered by the agenda

- Readings at Mass. Following discussion at the last meeting, the two readers now share the scripture readings to provide different voices.
- The Dona terminal has been set up for St Justins donations.

4. The Mass

- ⑩ Recommissioning Holy Communion of Ministers is taking place at both Masses on 3 December
- Receiving Holy Communion. Fr Walsh has spoken about this at Mass and in the bulletin, and plans to do another homily on the subject. **Action: Fr Walsh**
- Christmas Masses will take place at 5pm and midnight on 24 December and 9.30am on Christmas Day.

5. The Church

- Confirmation on 25 November had gone very smoothly, with 24 young people and one adult being confirmed. Parents had been very supportive of the young people and each other. JG has plans for social events (such as bowling) to help keep the group of young people together but his time will be limited in the future. Josh will use these events as opportunities to encourage young people to become involved in ministries. This links with wider work in the diocese, coordinated by the youth leadership team and Sue McDonald. Sustaining this work is challenging.
- ⑩ Prayer services update. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is taking place before weekday Masses.

6. Building the Community

- Welcoming and Offertory. MM observed that people attending Mass alone are less likely to be invited to participate in the Offertory Procession. Agreed that welcomers will be encouraged to address this by occasionally taking part in the procession with someone who is at Mass by themselves. Following discussion at the Parish Meeting on 27 September, it was agreed that the Offertory Procession would take place after Fr Walsh has spoken to the children's liturgy group. **Action: DR to include this information in the next update to welcomers.**
- Parish booklet. The final draft is on website. There were plans to produce some printed copies, and JG will work with DR on this. **Action: JG and DR**
- ⑩ Older people. No new requests for transport to Mass have been received. The meeting discussed the challenges of reaching people who may be in need.
- ⑩ Inclusivity and people with learning disabilities. RB had previously circulated a report and audit template. Cath Livingston has expressed an interest in this topic, and it was agreed that she be asked undertake the audit. **Action: Fr Walsh**

- New communities. There are new parishioners from all around the world, and there was a discussion about making them feel welcome. Inviting them to tea/coffee after Mass is a good opportunity, and welcomers could do this as they stand in the narthex with the collection baskets after Mass. **Action: DR to include this in the next welcomers update.**

7. Parish Council and Parish Meeting

- The open parish meeting was held on 27 September and notes are available on the web site. A number of items raised have already been actioned, including arranging the series of Advent talks and clarifying arrangements for the Children's Liturgy procession at morning Mass.
- The meeting had noted that some parishes have welcome points. CE mentioned the use of digital screens in other churches. DR pointed out that there is comprehensive information about the parish in the narthex, so in some respects it is a welcome point.
- Information about the Synod had been discussed and it was agreed that diocesan information should be promoted. **Action: JG will put a link to the diocesan web page in the bulletin.**
- TR asked if the liturgical week of the year could be included in the weekly bulletin, in addition to Fr. announcing it at Mass.
- Parish Council. Kathleen Baster and Columba Timmins have both stepped down from the Parish Council. It was agreed that a call should be made for expressions of interest from potential new members via the bulletin. The posters will also need updating in due course. **Action: JG to add to the bulletin**
- Parish Finance Committee. A new member is needed by the end of the year. Agreed that a call be put in the bulletin for expressions of interest from suitably qualified people. **Action: JG to add to the bulletin**
- DR observed that the bulletin is getting very crowded, and notices and requests need to be spread out. There was some discussion of producing a parish newsletter in addition to the weekly bulletin, but no decision was made.

8. Children and young people

No discussion

9. Live Simply updates

- In response to a question raised, JG confirmed that the Parish uses recycled paper, and that the laminator is used sparingly and not for short term notices
- The idea of installing solar panels on the Church is on hold.
- Alternative options for controlling the heating when the Church is not occupied are being considered.

10. Road closures update

The planters on Sackville Rd have now been removed and the diversions no longer in operation. A letter of thanks has been sent to the council.

11. Safeguarding

- CE is hoping to bring the Wickersley Prayer Tree for victims of abuse to St Vincent's in the new year. **Action: CE**
- A request had been received to make the safeguarding noticeboard more prominent but the meeting agreed it should stay where it is.

Any other business

- Cancellation of Parish Council meetings. It was agreed that there was no reason for meetings to be cancelled in the event that Fr Walsh is not available at short notice, as some agenda items could still be progressed.
- November Dead List. A parishioner had queried changes to the request form for the list, as the current form appears to allow for a limited number of names. The wording on the form relating to donations may also need clarification in the future. Donations for masses are not essential, but any money donated for November Dead List Masses must be accounted for under diocesan financial regulations. The form will be amended for next year. **Action: JG and Fr Walsh**
- JG is going to find a suitable box for all names submitted so that it can go on the altar when Masses for the dead are being said. **Action: JG**
- The custom of requesting Masses is perhaps not so widely practised or understood as it used to be, and this could be something that Fr. Walsh could explore in a future homily or newsletter article. **Action: Fr Walsh**

Dates for next meetings

24 January, 21 February, 20 March. All 7pm