

## **ST. VINCENT'S PARISH MEETING Friday 14 September 2018**

The meeting opened with a prayer after which Fr. Paddy welcomed the twenty parishioners in attendance.

Father had suggested six items for discussion as follows:

### 1. How best to advance the social life of the parish

Though we are already benefitting from the use of our extended parish hall, it was thought that maybe we could have Parish socials on a more regular basis, which could be well publicised and parishioners encouraged to attend. These events should be on a "bring your own" basis, providing entertainment (musical evenings, quiz nights, bingo, etc.), free of entrance charge, giving people a chance to get together in a friendly atmosphere. i.e. similar to the forthcoming Irish Night in October. Of course, parishioners still meet after the 10a.m. Mass for Coffee/Tea and biscuits – a long established activity. The annual parish pantomime is always well attended as is also the Christmas bazaar. It was also suggested that we resume the summer days out walking to a local beauty spot for a picnic and field sports.

### 2. How best to advance the spiritual life/liturgical life/prayer life of the Parish

Fr. Paddy informed the meeting that he is hoping to organise a Mission in the Parish to take place in Lent.

Fr. also hopes to introduce Gregorian Chant music at the Sunday evening Mass. A new prayer group (Lectio Divina) is due to commence on Monday 17 September which will reflect on the following Sunday Gospel.

Fr. Ryan has resumed his weekly Wednesday talks and it was suggested that we have an hour's Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on a regular basis.

Another request was for an annual Parish Retreat (Ilkley and Chesterfield were suggested as possible venues).

Diocesan Family meetings where families get together to pray, play and enjoy a meal together.

It was suggested that we re-establish the St. Vincent de Paul Society in our Parish. Now that the Ladies of Charity no longer work in the parish (due to lack of new members) it was thought their work of visiting the sick and housebound could be opened up by re-establishing the St. Vincent de Paul Society, who for many years worked alongside the Ladies of Charity helping the poor and needy. Theresa F. To contact Lance Philpott, SVP Membership Development Officer for Hallam Diocese.

## 2.

It was also suggested that we have regular meetings/training days for readers. It was thought that a Parish booklet should be published listing names and contact numbers of societies. Dominic R to arrange.

Fr. Paddy asked for our thoughts on forming a Parish Council. The unanimous feeling was that this would be a very necessary move. Pete D. to investigate.

### 3. Solly Street Update

Fr. Paddy informed the meeting that the building of the apartments for students and the renovations to the old St. Vincent's Church are now completed and students are beginning to take up residence.

Fr. Paddy also informed us that the plans for the St. Vincent's Boys School to be renovated into a Mission Hub have been sanctioned by the Diocese. Work is due to commence in October this year and completed by next June. (See plans attached (3). Fr. Lee will be Chaplain and is currently engaged in formulating his team.

### 4. Loose clustering with Sacred Heart – what it will mean

Fr. Paddy distributed a paper outlining his suggestions. He stressed that these were only "suggestions" as nothing had been decided or even discussed with the Sacred Heart Parish and ourselves yet. The proposal is that the Saturday evening Mass be dropped and Mass times for both Sunday Masses be changed i.e. morning – 9.30 evening – 5.00 or 5.30. (See attached (4)

### 5. Focus on young people

Kathleen B outlined plans for a youth club. Our young parishioners to be encouraged to join the Music Group (adults would also be welcome).

6. Should catechists (those involved in preparing children for the sacraments of confession, communion and confirmation, those involved in children's liturgy, adults preparing people for marriage, and those teaching the faith to adults entering the Church) be commissioned during Mass just like Readers and ministers of Holy Communion are?

The unanimous answer was "Yes"