

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 11 January 2022.

Present: Kathleen Baster; Catherine Evans; Peter Delamere; Russell Brynes (chair); Dominic and Theresa Rice; Columba Timmins (minutes).

Apologies: Father Walsh; Peter Twomey.

The meeting was held online due to Covid Omicron variant considerations. There was a time limit of one hour to the online availability, so it was agreed to leave discussion of parish council membership and Covenant with the Poor to later meetings.

(Work on a list of St. Vincent's charitable links, as per minutes 16 November 2021 is underway.)

Opening prayer.

No issues from previous minutes.

Review of Christmas masses. The 7pm vigil Mass and the 9.30 Christmas Day Mass proceeded without issues.

There was a breakdown in communication over the 5 pm vigil Mass. During December a children's Mass was proposed and accepted by Father Walsh. A problem arose over the reading ministry: the children were to provide this, but the parishioner who was scheduled to read was not told. The various reasons for the communication breakdown were discussed, along with measures to try to avoid it in future. We are sincerely sorry for the distress caused.

One measure under consideration is to publicise on the bulletin/bulletin extra any decisions parish meetings arrive at affecting Mass organisation.

There was a query from some parishioners as to why there was no Epiphany evening Mass at St. Vincent's this year. There was a vigil Mass at our sister church at Solly St. Mission Hub, but this was not advertised in the bulletin. It may help if Mass times at the Hub could be included regularly on the bulletin.

Taking names of people attending Mass for track and trace purposes. This has had particular added value as an opportunity to welcome people to Mass. The feeling is however, that in 'track and trace' terms it has now outlived its usefulness. Russell will propose to Father that it be stopped, and any decision be published in the bulletin. Dominic will alert stewards to any change.

Parish Formation – Communion for the housebound. Catherine has checked with the diocese re safeguarding requirements. Giving Communion in people's homes should be done in pairs, with one person having a DBS check. Covid still puts a break on this ministry, but in preparation for the future more communion ministers will be needed, along with the names of housebound people who would like to receive Communion.

Rebuilding Community and Evangelisation. The invitation letter to people to return to the church building, with news of the Synod and a Synod questionnaire, went out to all known parishioners- either collected in person from church, or hand delivered to people's homes. The numbers of questionnaires returned via the parish remains relatively low. It was pointed out that the opinions of younger age groups are especially needed when considering the future of the church. Russell will ask Father if he will speak about the Synod during Mass.

Living Simply. Efforts continue to raise awareness in the parish of Live Simply ideas. An idea was proposed for food growing in the church grounds this year which Columba will take to Father.

The meeting ended with a prayer.

Next Meeting Thursday 10th February 7.45pm. Whether online or in church to be verified nearer the time.