

St. Vincent's Pastoral Parish Council 22/03/2022. 7.45pm

Meeting held online due to Father Walsh being covid positive.

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

Apologies: Catherine Evans.

James Walters attended for first item on agenda, a discussion of this year's arrangements for FHC preparation.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

First Holy Communion preparation for Year 3 children. James queries if someone has come forward to take this role. Father has 2 possible offers of help. He will contact them to firm up the arrangement and let James know the result. If no-one available, then the parents will prepare the children at home. Father will call a meeting for parents and children for a Sunday in two weeks time. Father has copies of preparation books to be worked through.

Noted that anyone preparing children other than their own will need a DBS check.

Father and James will continue to liaise.

Matters arising from previous minutes:

See item from February meeting under Evangelisation and rebuilding communities which is relevant to above discussion on FHC preparation. Father would like to establish a team of catechists to be commissioned in the same way as Communion ministers and Readers. Father will find out if there is a training course provided by the Diocese for prospective catechists. The parish would support a team to undertake this. Possibility aired of its being a paid role. Father will put a note in the bulletin to gauge interest.

Father says the parish database is now up to date and much easier to manage, thanks to Marie T. Safeguarding will be discussed at next meeting when Catherine present.

Agenda proper:

Covid CCBEW guidance provided. Masks no longer compulsory for the congregation but remain compulsory for communion ministers. Hand sanitizing still advised. Russell will liaise with Peter T. re obtaining a supply of masks to be available for communion ministers and more hand sanitiser.

Easter services.

Peter D. will ask for volunteers to have their feet washed. Father needs to wear a mask for this according to Bishops' guidance.

Adoration of the cross: congregation may kneel but not touch or kiss the cross.

Vigil Mass at 9pm. Peter D. will arrange a (small) new fire. No adult baptisms to take place.

Holy Week activities under consideration as schools will be on holiday. There will be stations in the car park. Kathleen has ideas for meditation areas in the hall and will liaise with Father.

Are 2 stewards required for Sunday evening Masses?

Steward duties are mainly opening and closing windows and greeting. One person can manage this, but it is good to retain two names so that someone is available for back up should the other be unable to attend.

Communion for the housebound – Father will be liaising with Communion ministers.

Evangelisation and rebuilding communities.

There was a parish synod meeting during the month attended by 9 parishioners. Ann B and Paul J provided a resume of the major themes from the parish questionnaires. These are recorded on the parish website. A video on active listening (also on parish website) was shown and a listening exercise was undertaken.

Father attended a synod symposium with Jackie S in Birmingham. His opinions on this were mixed. Meeting members asked him to do a synopsis for the bulletin and website.

Justice and Peace: Ukraine response. Prayers offered regularly during Mass. Information on local collections of goods and donation sites has been shared on Whatsapp and informally.

Can there be a parish response to hosting refugees? At least two parishioners have individually registered interest on the government website. Kathleen queried if the Diocese Community sponsorship scheme (Home from Home Hallam) might be of help with its experience organizing resettlement for a refugee family? This application has been ongoing for over a year now and has involved detailed government communication, liaison with other agencies, and training and vetting of all involved. (The application has recently been accepted and a house arranged in Netherthorpe with South Yorkshire Housing Association.) The Home Office process for accepting Ukrainian refugees will be different and the details are still being finalized. One challenge is matching hosts and refugees: if people have personal knowledge of refugees to be helped, matching is easier, otherwise a reliably safe process is required for both those hosted and those hosting.

The organization Reset works closely with Community Sponsorship and has been of invaluable help to the Home from Home Hallam effort. It is working with the government on matching hosts for Ukrainian refugees and the site has much information for those wishing to register interest in hosting or helping in other ways.

<https://resetuk.org/>

Cafod is part of the Disaster Emergency Committee and as a Caritas Organisation has excellent links with the Caritas Organisations in Ukraine and the neighbouring countries who are welcoming refugees.

Depaul International (part of the Vincentian family of charities) has teamed up with St. John's Ambulance in the UK to get medical supplies to Ukraine.

<https://int.depaulcharity.org/>

Parish Environmental policy and Living Simply postponed.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Next meeting 27th April 7.30pm in Hall.