

St. Vincent's Pastoral Parish Council meeting. 10/02/2022

7.45pm (zoom)

Present: Father Walsh; Dominic Rice (chair); Theresa Rice; Catherine Evans; Peter Twomey; Kathleen Baster; Columba Timmins (minutes).

Apologies: Russell Brynes; Peter Delamere.

Opening prayer.

No issues from previous minutes. Covenant with the Poor and pastoral council membership to be deferred due to time constraints.

The Mass: January guidance from the Conference of Bishops regarding covid safety reviewed in tandem with the current arrangements at St. Vincent's. Masks are no longer obligatory but remain encouraged. Communion ministers must still wear them for the safety of communicants and continue to sanitise their hands. Communion to remain under one kind and administered in the hand. Ventilation measures to continue.

Stewards to continue a welcoming role, overseeing ventilation and offering collection baskets at the end of mass. Refilling hand sanitisers will be taken over by the voluntary cleaning team.

The Offertory collection has returned roughly to pre pandemic levels; online donations increased, basket donations reduced.

The procession of readers with the Gospel book at the beginning of Sunday morning Mass will be reintroduced over the next month.

Holy water can be provided in the stoup once more, to be changed weekly as part of cleaning routine.

Cleaning duties have increased alongside increased use of the Hall, kitchen and meeting rooms.

Volunteers are cleaning on Friday mornings at present. Work remains manageable.

Dominic will aim to send update on current parish guidelines to ministers and readers in time for next month.

Lent and Easter: there will be morning and evening masses on Ash Wednesday. Father hopes to have a mass for the anointing of the sick on a Lent weekday morning. To be discussed with SVP. As per several requests, Stations of the Cross will be placed around the car park hedging as they were last year.

Noted that school holiday begins two weeks before Easter. Possible activity for children and young people to be discussed with St. Marie's teachers and Children's Liturgy organiser.

Easter Triduum. Arrangements for timing of Vigil Mass and New Fire under discussion.

Parish Formation: Father wishes to set up renewal sessions for lay ministries. There will be a meeting of Communion ministers in due course. On the agenda will be Communion for the housebound, safeguarding requirements, reaching parishioners who may wish for more contact, and the need for increasing the number of communion ministers.

(See also Evangelisation and rebuilding communities)

Updating and development of data base is currently underway and parishioners' permission will be sought regarding what data is kept. To be discussed at the next pastoral council meeting.

Safeguarding: Catherine Evans and Nicole Jones are parish representatives. Catherine is organising a board for display of their names in Narthex. ID badges for parish visiting will be provided. Regarding DBS checks for communion ministers and visiting in pairs, discussion with the SVP about their current arrangements will be helpful for comparison and coordination. Father emphasised that communion for the housebound and SVP visiting are separate ministries.

Evangelisation and rebuilding communities: Synod process continues with questionnaires, in-person discussion and meetings offered. There will be an evening meeting for the whole parish on 23rd February. Council members have asked Father if he would integrate an introduction to the synod meeting in his homilies.

Father would like to establish a ministry of Catechists, to be commissioned in the same way as Communion ministers and Readers. They would cover preparation for the sacraments and Journey in Faith. To ask via bulletin for people interested. On agenda for next month.

Environment Living Simply and Justice and Peace: parishioners' ideas being sought re developing the grassy space below the car park – eg paths through the grass? Flower and vegetable growing areas? Meditation areas?

Fairtrade Fortnight starts on 28th February. To be advertised to the parish along with request to use Fairtrade drinks etc for parish meetings and hospitality. Cleaning materials are currently being sourced through Traidcraft, itself a fair-trade organisation, with plastic containers being reused when possible.

St. Joseph's Dinnington Live Simply group regularly share their work and ideas.

Cafod: Lent Fast Day is Friday March 11th. Two young women of the parish have offered to give the short Fast Day talk after Masses on Sunday March 6th.

There is a Cafod Walk for Hunger on 26th March. ? Possibility of having a parish walk as last year with a Just Giving parish donation page.

(Meeting had to end at this point as online link lost.)

Email received from Dominic R. post meeting:

Provisional date for next meeting Wednesday 16th March 7pm in person in Church.

Suggestion to move last agenda item forward for next meeting as later items often get rushed.

Items to be included in next month's agenda: catechesis; parish database; pastoral council membership; Covenant with the Poor update.