

St. Vincent's Parish Council Meeting. 12/11/2020. Minutes.

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

Apologies: Father Walsh; Peter Twomey; Christine Hopewell; Andrew Hayes.

Opening prayer.

Minutes of previous meeting checked. Noted that cleaning materials have moved to safer storage. There are no Masses this month because of a second lockdown.

Church opening for private prayer 11am-12.30pm Wednesdays and Sundays during current lockdown. Stewarding rota in place.

Management of seating used by visitors. Laminated cards will be made to 'block' any seat that has been occupied, advising new arrivals not to use the same seat again during that prayer session. In this way there is likely to be enough space in church to accommodate people attending without need for cleaning the benches. (There is a 72 hour window between Wednesday and Sunday prayer sessions).

Stewards to take name, telephone number + time of arrival and leaving for track and trace purposes. This record will be held securely after the session for 21 days, and then destroyed.

Track and trace issues discussed. The use of the national phone app code for track and trace is not feasible for St. Vincent's as not enough parishioners have access to the app in question. A paper record (kept securely and destroyed after 21 days as above) will provide more reliably comprehensive information, should the national Track and Trace system require it for identifying contacts of Covid cases.

Regarding who might qualify as a 'contact', the following points were noted:

- 1) Space in church is arranged such that people from different 'bubble groups' maintain a measured distance from each other.
- 2) The length of time of closer contact (eg while receiving communion) is minimal.
- 3) The church is cleaned as per guidelines in between group attendance.

Attending church for Mass or a private prayer session, therefore, does not constitute becoming a 'contact' of others in terms of national guidelines.

There are difficulties (as acknowledged by the government) with the current effectiveness of the national track and trace system. It was agreed that appropriate information-sharing, relevant to our own parish community, should remain a topic for consideration at future meetings.

Day by Day advent booklets for children. These will be taken to St. Marie's school for distribution.

Community Sponsorship Scheme for welcoming a Syrian refugee family. Hallam Diocese is inviting parishes to consider taking part in this scheme. We have received some written information from the Diocese, preparatory to an online meeting on Saturday 21st November. It was agreed that the SVP group is best placed to explore this idea for our parish.

Covenant with the Poor. This would be a formal commitment by the people of a Parish to give the poor a central place in the life, work and worship of our community. (Such covenants were originally inspired by words of St. John Paul II, as means of focusing on issues of 'intolerable social and economic inequalities'). There has been some discussion of the idea initiated by the St. Justin's Group in previous years, encouraged by the Diocese Justice and Peace Commission. It was envisaged

that the proposed formation of a Parish Council would allow for more broad based discussion. St. William of York's Covenant provides a useful template for investigating the idea. A copy will be obtained for consideration at next meeting.

Advent and Christmas services: It is hoped to have extra Christmas Masses. To be discussed with Father, along with the provision of music over the season.

Rebuilding communities: parishioners have expressed interest in the idea of making Advent wreaths together on a zoom session, probably 21st November. It would be hoped to make extra wreaths to deliver to more isolated parishioners unable to join in. Materials for the wreaths will be obtained, and arrangements for collection, delivery and the zoom session will be shared via whatsapp and other appropriate means.

Creating a Jesse Tree. The possibility of coordinating this with St. Marie's Christmas activities will be looked into.

Our Lady's Grotto. Well underway. Father has also obtained a crib for the garden. Tidying of garden and grounds continues, along with bulb and flower planting with Spring in mind.

Next meeting: date to be arranged for early December when Father's availability is confirmed.

Closing Prayer.