

St. Vincent's Parish Meeting. Thursday 13 May 2021

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

No apologies received.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

Minutes correction meeting 13th April: The work on St. Michael's grounds is undertaken only over 6 months of the year, so the cost of maintenance is half that minuted.

Opening the church for Mass: There was a lot of detail to be considered regarding potential changes in arrangements for Mass and building use when restrictions ease. It was decided to keep this as the only item on the agenda for the evening. A further meeting would be held in 3 weeks to address the items outstanding.

Discussion took into account the following:

Nationally, the roadmap out of lockdown proposes that all restrictions on people coming together will cease on June 21st.

This may change if the medical situation in the country changes.

It is likely that the Diocese will provide guidelines on how parishes are to manage their services and their buildings from this date.

In the meantime we need to consider the practicalities of what may change in St. Vincent's, so that we have some preparation in place and can answer parishioners' questions about how things will be.

There is a tension between removing all the church routine which has been place over the past lockdown months, and acknowledging how vulnerable some people may feel coming to Mass as a result.

A list of items to be discussed had been put together prior to the meeting. See attached sheet for provisional arrangements from June 21st.

Children's Liturgy – a comprehensive plan to restart Children's liturgy for children aged 3 + to 5 years, or up to Holy Communion age has been presented to the meeting by a teacher parishioner. The plan allows for working within restrictions, although depending on the start date these may not be necessary after 21st June. Before 21st June, parents who have booked to come to Mass will need to let the Children's Liturgy organiser know if they wish their children to attend. Kathleen B. will liaise with the parishioner about this.

Bulletin: There was some further discussion about the new bulletin lay out. Father will continue to put it together. He hopes two sides will allow for more detailed submissions and talking points for the parish, developing into a newsletter.

Covenant with the Poor: It is emphasised that nothing is being decided about this within these parish meetings – it is a parish proposal for parish discussion and will be publicised and talked about more as we come together again as a community. A member of the Finance Committee has expressed willingness to come to the Parish meeting to explore the financial aspects further. Father and Russell will invite him.

There have been several very welcome comments so far raising important points. Hopefully the subject will engage more contributors to the discussion.

There will be a **First Holy Communion Mass and celebration on July 11th 12midday**. All first communicants from this past year will be included.

Next meeting Thursday 3rd June 7.45 pm

ST. VINCENT'S CHURCH: POST-21 JUNE 2021 ACTIONS IN TERMS OF CURRENT RESTRICTIONS

NB(1): *Or a date later than 21 June if roadmap changes*

NB(2): *Pending any further relevant guidelines issued by Government and/or Bishops Conference and/or Diocese, all of which may modify some of the below*

Building

One-way system in church: remove

Ribbon closing off benches: remove

Hand sanitiser: maintain the 4 dispensers, keep them topped up, and encourage use

Toilets: all open once again

Books/leaflets in church (*hymn books, mass leaflets*): don't put back yet **(REVIEW IN AUTUMN)**

Votive candles in church: don't put back yet **(REVIEW IN AUTUMN)**

Items in narthex (*posters, notice-boards, Day by Day booklets, other leaflets, tables, etc.*): put these back, but for taking away (not handling and putting back)

Repository: open up again – but people need to take things away (not handling and putting back)

Use of Hall: Can be used again (though unlikely to be many bookings and events over the Summer); cleaning to be done by users

Regular cleaning: do a deep clean once or twice more; then gradually move back to a weekly clean (?)

Mass

Booking system for mass: discontinue

Taking names (& contact details): discontinue

Stewards: continue with a couple of stewards at Sunday masses for next few months, to be on hand to welcome, answer questions, re-assure, etc. **(REVIEW IN AUTUMN)**

Distancing/seating: no longer applies (but ask people to be sensitive/aware of distancing)

Wearing masks: follow national policy, so no longer required - optional

Ventilation: continue with this over Summer (open windows and doors) *(REVIEW IN AUTUMN)*

Length of mass (and content): restore bidding prayers; mass as normal (but note points below)

Altar servers: not for now *(REVIEW IN AUTUMN)*

Readers: continue with just one reader for now *(REVIEW IN AUTUMN)*

Collection/collectors: don't restore collection during mass yet; the 2 stewards to stand with baskets at end *(REVIEW IN AUTUMN)*

Offertory: no offertory procession for now *(REVIEW IN AUTUMN)*

Sign of Peace: Not for now (could perhaps nod/wave, or similar?) *(REVIEW IN AUTUMN)*

System for receiving Communion: people process up to front for communion as pre-lockdown (but ask people to be sensitive/aware of distancing)

Giving out Communion: priest/ministers could still sanitise hands and wear masks for this for next few months, to re-assure (?) *(REVIEW IN AUTUMN)*

Communion under two kinds: only host for now *(REVIEW IN AUTUMN)*

Receiving Communion: only in hand for now *(REVIEW IN AUTUMN)*

Singing & Music: no congregational singing for now; could gradually introduce some music if enough people to play/organise *(REVIEW IN AUTUMN)*

Leaving mass: no longer stewarded (but ask people to be sensitive/aware of distancing)

Cleaning benches after mass: no longer required

Coffee after 9:30 mass: could start again, but will depend on having volunteers and a rota, so may leave till after the Summer (?) *(REVIEW IN AUTUMN)*

Children's Liturgy: encourage this to be pursued and restored as soon as possible, if enough people to help and attend can be organised. (But may be better to wait till 21 June/full opening up, rather than spend time on setting up temporary procedures just for a week or two? – depends on how long it will take to set up/organise).

Other

Weekday masses: restore normal schedule of weekday masses