

St. Vincent's Parish Council Meeting. 10/12/2020

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

Apologies: Andrew Hayes; Christine Hopewell.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

Church reopened for Mass (after national lockdown 2) on Sunday 6th December, Second Sunday of Advent. No immediate problems with steward rota, but more stewards will be needed for increased number of Masses over Christmas season.

Booking system: Morning mass on the Sunday was fully booked. Some who arrived without booking had to be turned away and advised to try for the evening Mass which still had spaces.

Should Father's recording of Mass on a Saturday be opened to parishioners to increase availability? Stewarding and cleaning after Mass will be needed. Note to go in bulletin to test interest.

Mandatory booking: As bookings increase for both Sunday Masses, and the seating plans for both fill to capacity, so the need is becoming more urgent to manage people's expectations of being able to attend Mass without following the advertised booking system.

Phone booking via a designated phone number (as discussed meeting 13/10/20) will start in time for 4th Sunday of Advent 20/12/20. Bookings may be made via voice mail or text up to the close of the email booking period. They will be passed to the stewards organising the seating plan.

This extends booking possibilities for those unable to avail of the email system.

On occasions when the church is filled to capacity as per social distancing, stewards will be unable to accommodate someone arriving who has not booked.

Cleaning: Deep cleaning took place the weekend of 5/6th December. It takes around two hours.

Cleaning of pillars needs to be added to the regular after-Mass cleaning regime as they are frequently touched by people on leaving benches. Cleaning supplies are adequate until the New Year.

It's proposed to arrange industrial carpet cleaning including moving of pews, in the New Year.

Avoiding plastic waste: Sanitiser spray bottles are not to be disposed of- they will be refilled.

Test, Track and Trace and General Data Protection Regulation: (as discussed 12/12/2020).

It was re-emphasised that the written data collected for Mass attendance is kept securely for 21 days, in case required by the national Test, Track and Trace system, and then destroyed. It is not for use by the parish in the event of informal advice that a parishioner has had a positive Covid test. Should a question of the need to share such information arise, any decisions would require taking account of both personal confidentiality and public health safety.

Christmas Masses: There will be additional Masses over the Christmas season. Managing the practicalities and timings of booking and stewarding these required some discussion. A timetable for Masses and booking was agreed- for firming up within the following 24 hours- and will be advertised via bulletin, website, email, whatsapp group and word of mouth. In addition, a printed timetable will be attached to the entrance and exit doors of the church to reduce the incidence of people coming into the building to check Mass times.

Music for Christmas Masses was discussed. It was judged simpler to have recorded music in the current circumstances. A council member will arrange this with a technologically adept family member.

Community Sponsorship Scheme: A Diocesan meeting regarding this scheme to sponsor a refugee family over 1-2 years as they settle in Sheffield was attended by 2 parishioners. There would be good support from the Diocese, and a variety of expertise available to assist with the practicalities. Other Sheffield parishes are also looking at the scheme and it may evolve as a joint effort. A further Diocesan meeting will take place in January, including a presentation from Leeds Diocese members on their own experience. The SVP group has agreed to take the lead on assessing the feasibility of our parish joining the scheme. A summary of the situation so far will be provided for the parish website.

Covenant with the Poor: discussion deferred to next meeting due to pressure of time.

Rebuilding Communities: taking into account communication across email, whatsapp, hand delivered letters, phone calls and online activity, contact within the parish is deemed to be working quite well. The Advent Wreath session on zoom was enjoyed by upwards of 25 people, and more isolated parishioners who received wreaths were very appreciative. A Christmas card postal service to connect those who would normally use the Narthex as post box is well underway. The Our Lady statue and outdoor crib are attracting much positive comment, and a parishioner has started a children's activity inspired by the crib. Another has added violas to the garden flowers. A space outside the church building for safe prayer and meditation is growing.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Next Meeting: Thursday 14th January 2021. 7.45pm.