

St. Vincent's Parish Pastoral Council 26/10/2022

Present: Father Walsh; Russell Brynes (chair); Kathleen Baster; Catherine Evans; Columba Timmins (minutes).

Apologies: Theresa and Dominic Rice.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

Minutes of previous council meeting checked – Item re communion ministers to go on next meeting agenda, otherwise all issues outstanding covered through by this evening's agenda.

This evening's agenda reflects matters arising from the parish Open Meeting on 14/09/2022. Issues are broadly covered in the minutes below. An item on reverence for the Eucharist will go on next month's agenda. (Linked items were mentioned -Wednesday evening Adoration of the Eucharist and the display of the life of Carlo Arcutis are to be re-instated, date not yet fixed.)

It was agreed that the parish open meeting be an annual event.

Agenda proper:

Membership – 2 members have stood down. A parishioner has offered her service and it was agreed to invite her to join.

Photoboard. Can members send a whatsapp photo to Kathleen B along with their name and she will arrange for a photoboard for the Narthex so people can identify council members.

A Social Representative for the Parish was suggested at the open meeting. Would any parishioner be available and willing to take this role?

The Mass:

Reintroduction of the chalice? Father thinks it unlikely there will be new guidance from the Bishops in the near future on this. Communion will continue to be offered under one kind for now.

Re-introduction of the offertory collection and procession: Ideas on this differed. Thoughts were expressed that both may be considered symbolic of the offerings of the people to God, and provide a visual bridge from the Liturgy of the Word to the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Father asked Kathleen to review theological opinion on the symbolism and Russell to review Vatican II guidance.

Father welcomes the return of the young children's offertory procession as they rejoin the congregation after their liturgy. The offertory hymn will be reinstated to provide a signal for them to return.

Opening windows for the duration of Mass. It was decided this should continue for reduction of virus transmissions, with the caveat that severe weather may indicate otherwise.

The cost of heating the church was also discussed: how warm it should be kept and at what times it should be on; is it possible to turn the thermostat down a degree or two? Father says one of the reasons the church feels so warm on occasion is that the building is well insulated and retains heat. He agreed that Russell discuss managing the system with S.M.

There is a proposal that the church could be used as a warm hub during the depth of winter, with the provision of lunch. See below under 'supportive community'.

Moving forward as a Parish:

Parish booklet is underway, for discussion at next meeting.

Discussion on **how to be more welcoming when people arrive for Mass**: Perhaps a display showing the various parish activities could be put prominently in the Narthex? To include among other information the availability of children's liturgy, and a welcome to refreshments after Mass?

Design a card asking questions along the lines of 'are you new?' 'please introduce yourself'?

Should welcomers be more vocal in their greeting? Or is their presence and welcoming attitude sufficient to signal they may be approached with any questions?

Father: Could welcomers be sure to hand out any extra items –eg appeal envelopes, day by day booklets- along with the bulletin?

Being a supportive parish community: A parishioner, NJ, has suggested opening the hall as a warm hub and providing soup and sandwiches to the more vulnerable during the coming winter. Might young people be involved? Any donations could go towards travel to Lourdes or to the World Youth Day. Details to be worked through and NJ to be invited to next parish meeting.

Rebuilding the congregation: Father says attendance is back more or less to pre-pandemic levels, but there is concern about people and families whom the parish may have lost contact with.

Kathleen has proposed a welcoming Advent note with Mass times and a prayer to be shared with all parishioners.

Phoning and visiting people we know may be isolated was discussed. The SVP have input here.

Mission: Father has heard nothing from the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and the mission is unlikely to take place this year.

Live Simply: It was decided to register for the Cafod Live Simply Award. Several parishioners have offered to help take this forward in the parish. More details will be forthcoming after their first meeting. Arrangements for the **Christmas Bazaar** and the **Parish Pantomime** are underway.

Young People: A Youth Mass is being organized for the Feast of Christ the King.

Can we develop our relationship with the Hub chaplaincy? Russell to contact Father Lee and the youth worker Sue MacDonald.

Children: (see points above) The offertory hymn to be reinstated for the return of children from their liturgy. The Children's Liturgy to be 'advertised' on the proposed welcome display board in the narthex. Simple musical instruments (eg shakers) to be gathered for offering children to play during final hymn.

Environmental policy: A local postgraduate student has expressed keen interest in developing a plan for the church green space by Fitzgerald Road – to include fruit trees, meditative space, and growing areas. Father has agreed to this in principle and planning ideas are ongoing.

Safeguarding to be kept as an item on the agenda.

AOB: Proposal to have a mission statement to focus for all our parish activity. To go on next month's agenda.

The meeting closed with a prayer. **Next Meeting Wednesday 30th November 7pm.**

