

St. Vincent's Parish Pastoral Council 30.11.2022

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

A warm welcome and thanks to new council member Maria Mawson.

Nicole Jones attended to explain idea of offering St. V's as a warm space during January and February.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

Review of previous meeting minutes:

Photos of parish councillors to be sent to Kathleen with full names, for display in Narthex.

Confirmed intention to design of a contact postcard inviting newcomers to give their contact details. (Kathleen). To be available on the website also.

(Distinction made between this and the proposal of a display board of various parish activities, see below on this evening's agenda.)

Confirmed intention to compose a Christmas note with prayer and mass times to be hand delivered to around the parish. Dominic R will talk to Peter T and Kathleen to Dominic B about arranging this.

Discussion re St. Vincent's opening as a warm hub during January and February 23, hosting a lunchtime get-together for a couple of hours, offering hot drinks and a snack.

Mondays, Wednesdays or Saturdays are under consideration, not to overlap with similar provision at other Crookes churches. Before deciding on what we can offer, we need to know if enough volunteers are available, and which of the days suggested are easier to cover, at which times. A call for volunteers to go out after Sunday Masses, 4th December. Nicole J. is willing to act as a contact and manage a rota.

The Mass. Meeting of extraordinary ministers to take place in the New Year, specifically for those taking Communion to the housebound. A note to go in bulletin asking if any parishioner is aware of someone who is housebound who would like to receive Communion.

The necessity for having 3 Communion ministers was discussed. Agreed to keep arrangements as they are – 3 ministers on special feast days only, such as Christmas and Easter.

Offertory procession – (see minutes meeting 26/10/2022) Kathleen and Russell's research into theological opinion and Vatican guidance found positive commentary. 'A good thing; a praiseworthy practice'. It may be viewed also as a potentially welcoming practice, if people (especially new faces) arriving at Mass were asked to do it. To be reinstated after Christmas. No rota: welcomers at Mass to ask people arriving if they would like to offer the gifts. Father ensures that the bread and wine are in place at the back.

Collection baskets not to be included in procession, to remain outside in narthex for offerings on the way in or out.

Christmas Masses – 5pm (children's) 7pm Christmas Eve and 9.30am Christmas morning. Arrangements in hand.

Reverence for the Eucharist: Kathleen to prepare an item on this for next meeting.

The Church. The opening of windows for Mass was started during Covid. Opinions differ whether this should continue for health reasons. It can feel cold sitting next to the windows; heating the church while the windows are open is a waste of resources. Several people have expressed the opinion the church is generally too hot. Should we have windows closed and heating off? Decision to keep windows closed unless church was becoming very stuffy. Heating system to be discussed with S.M. at Live Simply meeting Dec 11th as part of proposed energy audit– Russell and Father will attend.

Building the Community. Put together a display board of what's on in the parish – children's liturgy, refreshments after Mass, different organizations and who to contact. Catherine E. will work on this. Parish booklet – Dominic R was working on this in early 2020 before pandemic intervened. Some of the information will have changed. He will review in the New Year. Agreed it would be primarily hosted on the website, (easier editing, managing use of paper) with a moderate number of printed copies. Mission: to take place in Lent 2023, exact dates to be decided. Given by the Friars of the Renewal, Bradford.

Blessed Carlo Arcutis exhibition – no new information.

Mission Statement for parish council. The council was a new initiative coming together in the few months before Covid. Its mission at that time focused on maintaining communication with and within the parish community, and managing the safe opening of the church. It is considered time to reframe its mission. What is the council for? Thoughts to Russell for next meeting.

Children and Young People. Youth Worker Sue MacDonald (based at The Hub Solly St.) will meet with Russell after the SVP Healing Service Dec 7th. The Mini Vinnies from St. Marie's are involved with the service. She will talk about possible input to the parish.

Involvement of young adults from the chaplaincy in the parish. In discussion with Father Walsh, Father Lee has proposed deferring this until a current 2 year discipleship programme at the chaplaincy is completed in 18 months time.

Children's Liturgy: positive feedback from parish regarding the children's return from their liturgy to the main body of the church at the Offertory, and to their musical procession out at the end of Mass.

Live Simply Award. A Live Simply group formed after the parish open meeting in September and put together a draft plan to apply for the Cafod Live Simply Parish award. The plan was discussed with Father who agreed to its submission, and St. Vincent's is now registered on the award scheme. The plan will be used as a working document, with hope to engage the whole parish in efforts to live moderate lives in harmony with creation.

Safeguarding. Names are needed for those requiring safeguarding training or certificate updating. (Catherine E.)

Dates of next 3 meetings: January 18th March 1st and April 19th 2023. All on a Wednesday at 7 pm in small meeting room.

AOB – Columba asked to step down from minute taking. Maria M has volunteered to replace her. The meeting closed with a prayer.

