

**St Mary's Leyland
Parish Council
Thursday 10th September 2015**

PRESENT: Fr Jonathan, Sister Veronica, Alex Anthony, Gaye Beirne, Christine Lemmon, Sue Mills, Edward Almond, Lesley Raven, Jeremy Watson, Jenny Hollinshead, Celia Neill, Tim Sullivan.

APOLOGIES: Liz McGrath, Pauline Strachan, Fr Paul, Peter Barron.

PRAYER: Led by Sister Veronica.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the last meeting were accepted by all present.

MATTERS ARISING: The introduction at the start of mass was briefly discussed. It had been commented on that the introduction was too long and that the congregation was not aware that the reader had approached the lectern to begin the introductions. Consideration was given to using a bell to signify the start of the introductions and to also explain the approach in the bulletin, that this was an important start to the mass celebration.

PARISH EVENTS:

Benedictine Living Experience Day
Garden Party
Vigil for the Assumption – Holy Hour
Mariapolis
Fr Alban Crossley Celebration for Golden Jubilee
Mission Box Appeal
Mass for the Bereaved
Holy hour for Eucharistic Ministers
High School Reopened

GUINEA BISSAU VISIT UPDATE: As per Fr Jonathan's email in the summer to the PPC members, Fr Celso had suggested not to wait until the church in Guinea Bissau was completed to go on our Parish visit. There is always a possibility of delays in the building work and we should "strike while the iron is hot". Fr Jonathan and Fr Celso agree that the £10,000 gift makes a twinned bond between the two parishes and the trip would provide a mutual benefit but particularly for ourselves to witness the life's of the Guinea Bissau people.

Safety is of utmost importance but the area is no more dangerous than other places and there have been no safety issues.

Fr Jonathan gave possible dates to make the trip around the October half term period. Possibly to travel out on the 21st or 22nd October and return on the 30th or 31st October (approximately 10 days) There was some concern that time scales may be an issue to have everything organised by

the end of October. The travel documents are processed by the embassy via courier, Fr Jonathan would have to find a supply priest and injections for yellow fever would be required for those travelling. Parishioners also need to be given all relevant information to then decide whether they can afford to & have the time with work etc to make the trip at this time.

FUND RAISING: Ideas have been put forward and discussed at a previous fund raising meeting as per the notes provided. Gaye gave an overview of these ideas and other suggestions were made such as a race night. It was decided to have a fund raising sub committee of Tim Sullivan and Jenny Hollinshead but also to possibly involve the Youth Group. Tim will speak to Steve McBride regarding this. If possible also involve non PPC members & organise a sub committee meeting to move this forward. Fr Jonathan also suggested that we should think in our own personal circles to do a small thing for fundraising. It was also suggested to produce a hand out which could be distributed after every mass covering ideas being considered and asking for help and suggestions.

NEW SITUATION IN THE PARISH: Fr Stephen is absent from the parish at present and the future is uncertain. Fr Paul spends a lot of time at the weekend with his prison commitments and there is a hefty workload for Fr Jonathan. There are many challenges, with 3 masses & baptisms on a Sunday plus weekly masses, funerals and numerous other tasks to complete. Fr Jonathan has been considering this issue and asked the members thoughts on the following proposals.

It has already been arranged for three people, Edward Almond, Carmel Pearman and Sister Veronica to attend a course with a view to conducting funeral services as lay people. Fr Jonathan's proposal is to have one mass on a Sunday morning at 10am with baptisms at 12 noon followed possibly by an extra mass at 4pm. With regard to the one mass on Sunday morning Fr Jonathan and Lesley have had two meetings, the first being with the choir and folk group, the second with the collectors and alter servers. Both meetings were positive with the relative folk and choir groups agreeing to work together to sing and play at the 10am mass. Likewise the collectors and servers were prepared to work together in order to lighten Fr Jonathan's workload.

As regards the possible 4pm mass on a Sunday Fr Jonathan thought this would provide an alternative for some parishioners. However the members thoughts were that having this mass would not solve the issue of workload and there was still a Saturday vigil mass as an option.

Parishioners must understand the reality of the situation and the majority would understand and support the parish when this issue is explained to them. It was agreed that the reduction in masses would result in losing some people from worshipping at St Mary's. It was also commented on that once the decision is made and mass times changed it should be stuck with and not changed back later. Fr Jonathan will make the final decision on these proposed changes but will be dependant on news regarding the allegations made against Fr Stephen.

OCTOBER MEETING TO BE AGM: The next PPC meeting on Wednesday 7th October at 7.30pm will be an open evening for our AGM to which everyone is invited. Refreshments will be provided with the meeting being publicised in the bulletin as an invitation and to get an idea of numbers attending. There will hopefully be some people to speak such as Steve McBride about the Youth Group and John Baggaley regarding gift aid.

AOB:

1. Edward mentioned that on Sunday 13th September the church is open from 2pm-5pm as part of the heritage events. If possible please could anybody assist on the day.
2. Edward suggested that a notice board could be displayed on the wall of the old church explaining its history. There is also a piece of marble in Edward's garden which could be moved back to its original place. A notice board similar to the heritage one's that are displayed around Leyland would be ideal and Edward would look into this.
3. The pot holes in the car park are quite dangerous now and are a safety worry. Quotes provided have been very expensive so it was suggested that they could be filled with gravel as a temporary measure. Tim will pick up materials from Berry's and make safe.
4. Jenny suggested that we could possibly look into lottery funding as a means of raising money. It was agreed that this would be looked into at a future date.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING/AGM: Wednesday 7th October at 7.30pm

CHAIR: Alex Anthony

PRAYER: Celia Neill

Meeting closed at 9.15pm