

**St Mary's Leyland Parish Pastoral Council Meeting and Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 12 October 2016**

PRAYER: Celia Neill

WELCOME: Alex Anthony [Chair] who stood in for Edward Almond who was unwell.

Welcome to all our parishioners and council members.

APOLOGIES from PPC members: Fr Stephen, Fr Paul, Edward Almond, Brian Salisbury [Finance].
PPC visitors are welcome to any PPC meeting but in this instance they are able to join in the discussion as this is an AGM.

MINUTES: accepted as a true record of our last meeting.

PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS/PARISH EVENTS:

Visit of Steve Atherton on Mercy and the Refugees: Saturday 10 Sept
Open Day for Churches in South Ribble including St Mary's Sunday 11 Sept.
Housebound Mass 17 Sept
High School Friendship Day 20 Sept
CTIL AGM at St John's church 20 Sept
Belarussian Sisters visit 30 Sept
They stayed the night and most of the next day in the Priory house, and their visit was very successful and friendly.
Visit to Cathedral for Mercy Pilgrimage: very good day 1 Oct
Skelmersdale mercy pilgrimage to our Church ; a very good day 8 October
Kendal trip for a show, when Andrew Jones, son of Tony and Madeleine Jones was acting in a play performed at the Edinburgh festival in Kendal.
8 October

Refugee Crisis and CTIL; Father Jonathan

Successful 'Mercy Day' with Steve Atherton took place on 10 September. He outlined the issues of the 5 refugee families arriving in South Ribble, eg finding suitable housing.

There are booklets in the Narthex for parishioners about the refugee situation, differences between Refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. Thanks to Howard Anthony SRBC for all the work connected with settling the refugees into our community.

CTIL together with SRBC are arranging a gathering of the community, of all denominations and religions and those who have other convictions, to help us understand the issues and how we can support. Overseas aid money is being utilised for 2 – 4 weeks for the 5 Refugee families (part of the 20,000 from Syria from David Cameron's scheme) but then support comes from the community itself.

Date, time and venue to be confirmed.

Year of Mercy

Pilgrimage from Skelmersdale went well, as did two school visits, but other days have not been as well attended. The Cathedral visit was a beautiful experience.

Next event; Friday 11 November 6-8.30pm 'Benedictine Life Experience'
Hosted by monks from Anglican-based Monastery at Mucknell Priory; an ecumenical monastery.

*On the Feast of Christ the King there will be closure of the Year of Mercy then the launch of 'Faith in Action' at the 9.30am mass.

Thanks to Sr Veronica, Christine Lemmon and Carmel Pearman for their work.

Michael Barrett's Ordination Saturday 15 July 2017 at 11am

Expectations of 1000 congregation. Michael wishes for his present to him from the parish to be the catering and hospitality. Extra volunteers will be needed. Spaces to be used; ambulatory, Narthex and the Priory Club. Margaret Hollinhurst and her team has offered to display flowers.

Other suggestions;

- Input from school children from St Anne's and those who are now at the high school.
- Publicity?
- Programme/mass booklet

*Vocations need to be encouraged and will be an item on the next PPC agenda.

REPORTS;

Church Cleaners; Pat Calderbank and Kate Jordan

There are two cleaning teams. We have a full quota although a man is needed to help clean the ambulatory. Extra cleaners are always welcome. Thank you to a local businessman for the donation of the new vacuum cleaners. The cushions on the end of the benches are to be cleaned and the Knit and Natter group are to be asked to help with those in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The PPC are very grateful to those involved in keeping the church clean and tidy.

CTIL Food Bank; Celia Neill for Aileen Brown

Open Mon-Fri 10-12pm. On Tuesday and Friday a team of volunteers prepare the food bags. Food is collected at all denominational churches in and around Leyland and brought to St Mary's for distribution. A number of individuals also donate, some of them former clients who want to put something back. Morrison's and Tesco collect weekly and stocks are given a large boost three times a year. During Harvest Festivals churches also have a major collection.

Referrals for the Food Bank come from a number of sources; Social Services, Citizens Advice, community support workers, local churches and schools. Referrals from the Job Centre can involve a client who first goes on benefits or benefits change and are having to wait several weeks for the benefits to come through. The food bank is a lifeline. People can also be referred to the SVP group for support or other agencies for which we have leaflets. At present 160-170 food bags are distributed fortnightly to a diverse group of people, single clients and families. Extra food is provided depending on need.

When clients arrive in an emotional state we can offer a cup of tea, a listening ear, a friendly smile and words of consolation. The volunteers work well as a team and we would like to thank the monks and Lesley as we invade their space in the Priory House, which is their work place and home.

Hospitality Group; Lesley on behalf of Kath and Barrie Cox

Another busy year. Main events included the garden party, Christmas Fair, Housebound Mass, Fr Stephen's Golden Jubilee and many smaller events. There are regular commitments like the 9.30 tea and coffee. All our helpers are getting older, some being octogenarians. We have some younger members on occasion who help on an ad hoc basis but it would be good to have some new blood especially as we have the privilege of hosting Michael Barrett's ordination next year. Thanks to all who support with baking and money donations.

Parish Finances; Tony Considine for Brian Salisbury

The accounts were distributed. Income is similar to last year. More people seem to have taken up Gift Aid despite the reduction in the numbers of regular mass goers. There have been less weddings but more funerals. The premises take a big chunk of the expenditure. We are always looking as to what we can save on. We have two legacies this year. In the event there was a small shortfall this

year when both ordinary income and expenditure and extraordinary income and expenditure are added up.

AOB

Churches Together in Leyland would like to get together more frequently. They plan to meet on the 5th Sunday in a month which would be 4 times per year. The first meeting will be held on Sunday 30 October 6-7pm in our Church. The theme is Proclaiming the Wonders of God, as seen in the lives of our parishioners. The event will be the normal evening prayer of the Church with some input from monks and parishioners.

The Sound System. A question was raised; are there to be any improvements made to the sound system?

Things that have happened:

1. The Sound System gave up completely on Monday 3 October
2. Our Sound engineer Bill Sproson came on Tuesday 4 October and found half the mixer was simply broken, the result of usual wear and tear. Perhaps this was the reason for inconsistent behaviour of the sound system.
3. For one week when we had a series of funerals and the week-end, half a mixer powered the sound system and all went reasonably well.
4. A new sound mixer was ordered and installed on Monday 10th October, two days before this PPC meeting.
5. People commented that the Cathedral sound seemed good to them. In practice, though this was not stated, many who go to the cathedral in Liverpool find it not easy to hear; people's perceptions vary.
6. The PPC will discuss the matter again.

The Welcome to Parishioners before mass. General discussion about the introduction and welcome 5 minutes before mass starts. The reader can't always be heard; people are talking or the microphone may not be used correctly. A number of views were raised.

*PPC to discuss as an agenda item at the next PPC meeting.

The length of Mass One person strongly commented about the length of mass, and that some priests give mini sermons throughout the mass. This was thought to be off-putting for the parishioners.

Others gave different views, saying that it all depended on how engaging the mass is.

PPC might discuss ways to encourage people to come to mass eg by being more actively involved, especially our younger parishioners.

Volunteers to work the laptop presentation during 9.30am mass as others are involved in the folk group.

Next PPC meeting; Wednesday 30 November 2016 at 7.30pm

Chair; Christine Lemmon

Prayer; Sr Veronica AGM closed at 9.10pm Many thanks to all for attending the AGM.