

## St Mary's Leyland

### Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Wednesday 29 March 2017

**PRAYER:** Sue Mills

**WELCOME:** Alex Anthony [Chair]

**PRESENT;** Fr Jonathan, Edward Almond, Christine Lemmon, Sue Mills, Lesley Raven, Jenny Hollinshead, Tim Sullivan, Alex Anthony, Celia Neill, Sr Veronica, Jean Smith.

**APOLOGIES:** Fr Paul, Fr Stephen,

#### **Item 3 & 4 Acceptance of Minutes of the Last Meeting and matters arising.**

The kitchen in the Narthex has now been painted.

Cooking lessons; Fr Jonathan has spoken to Vicky Drake and will meet with her after Easter.

**Minutes accepted and signed by Edward Almond as a true record.**

#### **Item 5 Parish Councillors' Report**

Sacramental Programme for 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion has continued. Communions will be in May on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> for St Anne's, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> for St Catherine's and on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> for St Mary's children in Primary School.

St Catherine's involvement in 9.30 Mass on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March was excellent. Many good comments made about the children. It is noticeable that the Children perform well when they are asked to come and have a role to play: it is not so easy if they do not feel involved each Sunday except for a faithful few. The Polish families and a Slovakian family are among those who are very faithful.

Baptism programme has continued. It is a great help to prepare couples for the huge sacrament of Baptism faithfully done by Sister Veronica with no fuss.

Reconciliation Service with the High School on 28 March. This was another building block in the ways of faith and well done by the High School chaplain.

Mass for the Bereaved. As usual a good moment to help people face the grieving process.

Parish Father's meeting with Fr Prior and those monks involved in parishes on 3 March.

Coffee Morning in the Narthex to support SPUC on 2 March

Newman Raffle tickets on sale after each Mass. About £700 was made

Discover group- Alcohol and Drugs support group. This takes place each week in the library and helps those with addictions.

A wedding with a difference: Saturday 25 March with the Preston One Voice Choir. The singing enhanced the joy and involvement of all present. The Choir were like a Flash Mob appearing from among the guests at the wedding.

#### **Item 6. Involvement of young people in the Parish.**

Update by Jenny Hollinshead. *[The lack of young people in Church a National Issue, schools are a means to contacting parents who are key in supporting getting our youth back to church. We should not blame ourselves for the lack of involvement of the young and their families at Mass. It is much more to do with the culture of our times, rather than because of a lack in teachers, parents or grandparents]*

- Could be involved in various practical activities that take place in church, with support from parishioners eg cleaning church, offertory procession, little church.
- Child-friendly mass where older siblings could read.
- If children are involved parents will come. Also if they see a purpose to mass, welcoming, giving out books, offertory collection, rattle band supervision etc. this might encourage them.
- Within the Sacramental programme there is opportunity to get the children back into church on a regular basis.
- Other aspects; singing, bidding prayers, uniformed groups, GIFT[Growing In Faith Together], Plays,

- Sponsored Sunday 9.30 am Masses on a monthly rota are to be encouraged.
- Job list and readings to be sent to each school.
- Letter for parents asking for their support by bringing their children along.

Jenny Hollinshead will continue to liaise with Headteachers. PPC worked out a rota around the Liturgical Year. St Catherine's school were involved in a recent 9.30 Mass undertaking duties normally done by adults, including collections, the Offertory procession and readings. The next dates have had to be altered, possibly to a date in June, as St Mary's and St Anne's both had other commitments at the time. Youth group to be involved at some point, and Sacramental Programme children. Jenny is also liaising with the high school chaplain who hopes to link the High School's involvement with grandparents day. Fr Jonathan will aim to liaise with schools too. Two PPC members will also liaise with St Anne's. This kind of involvement will support RE inspections for the schools.

### **Item 7 Easter programme**

A list of Services and Masses has already been printed in the church bulletin this week.

For the Maundy Thursday Service the readings will come first followed by the fire outside on the piazza. 7.30pm start. At the vigil, parishioners to be warned against standing on the steps outside for Health and Safety reasons and an allocated place for the less mobile will arranged by the main doors. The same will happen on Palm Sunday.

The piazza will be for parishioners only ie the bollards will be up so no cars will be allowed there. Car park marshalls will be needed.

Fr Jonathan has encouraged the First Holy Communion children to volunteer to have their feet washed on Maundy Thursday and will also be encouraged to take part on Palm Sunday.

Good Friday walk [on footpaths with crossing marshals] will start from St John's church at 9.30am and finish at our church. Help is need with hospitality afterwards.

One mass on Easter Sunday morning at 10.00am with Little Church. An Easter egg hunt in church will take place after mass run by the youth group with cakes available for adults. Thereafter the next mass will be at 6.00pm

### **Item 8 AOB/matters raised by anyone**

Fr Jonathan distributed an information sheet relating to Citizens UK, a group seeking pledges on a variety of issues eg Dignity in Social Care, Tackling Hate Crime and Homelessness. Meeting to be held at St Wilfrid's, Preston on 1 May then onto Manchester for the launch. There is the hope that a group will be introduced to the Lancashire area. Fr Jonathan is going and asks if anyone would like to accompany him to judge whether it would work in our church and if there is a cost. Let him know by Easter if you are interested.

Information sheet about a Parish based retreat [Living Christ Retreat] run by Irenaeus, which helps to deepen growth in spiritual life. Possibility of checking one out then a date to be booked for September 2018. Discuss at next PPC/chair meeting with Fr Jonathan and Lesley.

Attendances at Mass at 09:30 are down to about 190 on average This is a general drop of 50 since one year's ago. It is a worrying trend.

The 11.00 mass had 65 parishioners and visitors on a recent Sunday. "We need a bit of a boost" was generally agreed. It is hard to know what to do and we are aware of the culture in which faith in God grows weaker. Nobody will find a magic wand to resolve this problem.

Crisis Fund Launch by Mary Beetham. 3 May in the Priory Club [10.30 for 11.00 am]

Newman Fund rep Christine Lemmon and Sr Veronica to attend. Sue Mills to contact Primary school's Family Support Worker.

Next meeting; Wednesday 24 May at 7.30pm

Chair; Celia Neill

Prayer: Sr Veronica

Meeting closed at 9.05pm