

**St Mary's Leyland
Parish Council**

Wednesday 4th January 2012

PRESENT: Fr Jonathan, Sr Veronica, Sue Mills, Alex Anthony, Gaye Beirne,
Christine Lemmon, Walter Courtney, Edward Almond, Tony Hart, Tim
Sullivan, Fr John, Judy Gammans

APOLOGIES: Lesley Raven, Ann Ward, Fr Paul, Peter Barron

INTRODUCTION: Edward introduced Fr John to his first PPC meeting

PRAYER: Led by Tony

MINUTES: Accepted as a true record of last meeting.

MATTERS ARISING:
None

PPC REPORTS;

- Leyland Brass Band performed in our Church
- Joint Schools Carol Concert was held
- High School Carol Service was held
- A service was held in Jubilee Court
- New Years Eve Disco and Buffet was not very well attended but very enjoyable
- Services of Reconciliation were held
- Annual Parish Walk was enjoyed by a number of parishioners

CHRISTMAS REVIEW:

Walter reported that they managed to erect the crib with difficulty due to damaged bolts. He said they hope to be able to store the crib without dismantling it.

Everyone remarked how beautiful the Star on the front of the Priory house looked.

The main change undertaken this year was the earlier start to the Midnight Mass. Attendance did not seem to be affected. Around 700 people attended the 6pm Mass

Evangelisation: This item from the previous meetings AOB was discussed. It followed an article in the Universe about reaching out to non church goers. The pastoral letter of the Lancaster Diocese referred to the Year of Faith initiated by the Pope. We discussed some of our previous initiatives including KIT and of course our Sacramental Programmes. It is also very important that we try to

reach out to adults without children who would not be involved with any of these programmes.

It was suggested we try to focus on social events in some instances rather than religious in order to successfully invite people to join in. In using our Parish Centre for functions we should advertise services and meetings prominently therein for all to see. Our mission as church is evangelisation, though it was agreed that helping others to have a relationship with God is not easy.

It was suggested we try to provide religious support for people attending funerals, who by the very nature of the occasion are grieving and looking for explanations.

It was agreed that we should concentrate our minds on those areas that we know to work and bring our ideas back to the next meeting with renewed vigour.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME:

Fr Jonathan told us about a group called the National Catholic Professional Theatre Company (Ten Ten Company). He has engaged their services to perform a play called “Two Faced” as an opening to the Confirmation Programme. Space and therefore numbers will be limited but Fr Jonathan believes this event will be extremely successful and that through this media the Holy Spirit will be working in our midst. A course is also planned to follow this, undertaken by two catechists from Bamber Bridge who will explore the potential faith of those attending if they so wish. Parents have been pre warned and Fr Jonathan has already received more than 200 replies. 200+ children are involved in the programme and the cost of the theatre company is quite substantial. It is important however to do all we possibly can to stem the onslaught of atheism and the cost is therefore justified.

AOB

Following our discussion earlier regarding Christmas Mass times Fr John explained to us that in Ecuador the Masses were also at various times but the average was around 8pm.

Walter asked when the crib should be taken down. It was agreed it should be put away the weekend after the Epiphany.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Wed 8th February at 7.30pm

CHAIRPERSON – Alex Anthony