

St Mary's Leyland
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
and Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 7 October 2015

PRAYER: Sr Veronica

WELCOME: **Alex Anthony [Chair]**

Welcome to all our parishioners and council members.

APOLOGIES from PPC members: Fr Stephen, Peter Barron, Jeremy Watson.

MATTERS ARISING Minutes:

Fr Jonathan is visiting Guinea Bissau, to see the Church project, at the end of October.

Fr Stephen's situation has been resolved and we welcome his return to the Parish.

The potholes on the carpark have now been filled in.

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

PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS/PARISH EVENTS:

Fr Stephen's situation has been resolved and we welcome his return to the Parish.

The Sacramental Programme has started for this year.

The Church had its Open Day on 13 September as part of the Churches Together in Leyland event.

First Aid course.

Schools Open Days and Information Evening.

Masses in the Primary schools and for Yr 7 at the High School.

Parish Initiative; Father Jonathan

This has been a major event in the church's year, helping us all to change our minds in the way in which we live our lives. It is an important link with what we believe in, needs to be productive and know that we are God's disciples. In other words what we do in church can be used in everyday life. We can encourage other people and enable others to join us – our faith is to share.

Refugee Crisis; Father Jonathan

Initially the discussion started with the Focolare movement afternoon. It is good to listen to people's views. We need to learn to live in a positive way and without guilt. Father Jonathan has received interesting comments from parishioners in how we can help this crisis – teaching English as a second language, money gifted to rent a house, offering a room of their house. FJ has contacted CTIL and the local Council [Ian Parker – an official] and who are ready to work with the issue. It's an ongoing challenge which will be a slow process but one which cannot be ignored. PPC are looking at working with the Diocese and these other agencies. Any ideas from parishioners are very welcome.

REPORTS;

YOUTH; Steve McBride

Steve explained his role; building and developing links with Primary and High Schools and involving Youth in various activities, with meetings on Sunday evenings. Steve thanks his team of volunteers; Paul Falcone, Nicola Atkin and Lee Sullivan. The Confirmation programme at this age has been missed for those wishing to reaffirm their Faith.

Recent trends show that older students are moving onto to other interests so a new core of younger persons is emerging. However only one of these is from our High school. Work with the chaplain to encourage more to attend is planned. Attendance at weekend masses has dropped once they leave primary school so links with these Y5 and 6 students are planned. A varied and exciting programme will be offered to encourage greater interaction with the parish. Suggestion of flyers to the primary schools to encourage membership. Many thanks for the Parish's support.

SAFEGUARDING; Lesley Raven/John Mills

Lesley and John will work slowly through all groups working with Children and vulnerable adults in order to fill in the DBS forms, initially prioritising the Youth group and Little Church. There is a charge of £12 for each person but this will be paid for by the parish. Everyone will be informed when it is their turn.

WEBSITE;

New website was demonstrated. It is more interactive, comments can be made in the various sections too which will be monitored/checked for appropriateness. The group sections have been transferred across. Any new information for these is welcome and will added; see Fr Jonathan. Events diary [in Google] can be downloaded onto smart phones. There are links to other websites, eg the Vatican website. Further links can be added.

LEYLAND ST MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL; Chris Meldrum

The completed school building was open to pupils on 1 September after a two year building programme. There are 7 labs, 4 technology areas, 11 new classrooms, sports facilities, a Learning Resource Centre and new heating around the school. 300 people attended the recent Opening Evening, with the Drama Theatre being very busy. There has been more positive publicity. The pupils are proud of their school and respect it well. Staff are more confident too. Archbishop Malcolm is officially opening the school with a celebratory mass on 9 October. PTFA Dinner Dance is taking place on 13 November at Farington Lodge. There has been close work with Father Abbott, Father Jonathan and the parish, LEA, Liverpool Archdiocese, Architects- Cassidy and Ashton, and Building Contractors- John Turner. We now have the best school in the area for facilities. But the pupils make the school and some are starting to return. The difference which sets the school apart from others is its catholic ethos. There are symbols on each corridor and the remains of the burnt cross are now preserved in Perspex. Thanks to the parish community for their support. The appointment of a new Head Teacher will be for January or Easter with the Executive Head facilitating the changeover.

CEMETERY; Peter Hollinhurst

Peter gave a short history of the cemetery from burials before 1934 at the Parish Church to the present. There are currently 3000 burials in the cemetery with room for another 20 years. Recent projects include – unsafe trees cut down and replaced by extra, the wall behind No 10 Worden Lane repaired/replaced as are the gates to the carpark. We are at saturation point for benches so no more for now as it can interfere with grass cutting. Meetings are on Monday nights – volunteers always welcome. Thanks to all those who have given their time to care for our cemetery.

NEWMAN FUND; Christine Lemmon

Many people have been supported over the last 4 years. This year 10 requests have been helped with school uniform, educational visits, retreats to Ampleforth, Lourdes, and a volunteer for a South African project.

£3961.71 donations

£3790.48 outgoings

£171.23 balance.

500 CLUB; Elizabeth Ellison

Nearly 20 yrs old with just under £300,000 raised in that time. The aim is to help with major church projects that ordinary parish monies cannot fund. Examples; The carpeting of the church; the new double glazed high windows in the Church; refurbishing the Narthex and the two side chapels and much more. £30,000 currently in the account.

70 envelopes and 100 donations by standing order currently raising £21,000 and £25,400 respectively. Parish can claim 25% as Gift Aid amounting to an extra £10,000.

Six volunteers help with counting and recording and many thanks to Bernard Heyes for many years of support. Membership equates to £1 weekly with £100 weekly prize. New member always welcome.

ACCOUNTS 2014-2015; Brian Salisbury

There has been a reduction in income by £5,000+. The weekly offertory is the main source of income bringing in 54%. Tax covenants raise this to 64% of total income. There has been greater expenditure this year – eg the Ampleforth assessment. Heating system in the Priory House has been updated ie new boilers to make it more efficient. There is now a new kitchen in the Priory House, internet upgrade, and unsafe trees removed from the garden. The Narthex chapel heaters are now greener. The grill has still not been installed; this will be discussed shortly and then the project can be signed off.

Future projects; upgrading the Link corridor from Priory House to Church, Blessed Sacrament chapel windows to be triple glazed, replacing of the library kitchen and consideration of replacement of one of the priests cars.

Next meeting for PPC; Wednesday 11 November 2015 @ 7.30pm

Chair; Edward Almond

Prayer; Gaye Beirne

Many thanks to all for attending the AGM.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm