

**St Mary's Leyland
Parish Council
Wednesday 7th May 2014**

PRESENT: Fr Jonathan, Fr Stephen, Ann Ward, Sr Veronica, Peter Barron, Sue Mills, Edward Almond, Jeremy Watson, Alex Anthony, Gaye Beirne, Christine Lemmon, Liz McGrath, Steve McBride, Dominic Cullen.

PRAYER Led by Christine Lemmon

APOLOGIES Lesley Raven

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

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

PARISH EVENTS:

Easter Services
Reconciliation Services
Sacramental Programme
Easter Sunday Jubilee Family Day
Archbishop Malcolm inaugurated on 1st May
Divine Mercy
St Georges Day Parade
50th Wedding Anniversary of Walter & Kathleen Smith who renewed their wedding vows on Easter Sunday.

In addition it was commented on that there has been a good response to requests for donations of food for the needy. More people are coming forward to receive food parcels as a result of better coverage of this service that the Parish provides.

REVIEW OF GOLDEN JUBILEE/NEXT EVENT:

Feedback for the Jubilee Celebration Mass has been very positive. The use of Skype during the celebration, the excellent response to the Jacobs Join and Golden Jubilee souvenirs selling well were all commented on. More Parishioners could have attended the celebration which was a slight disappointment and possibly the schools could have been more involved. The next Golden Jubilee event is the Parish Gig Night on Saturday 31st May in the Priory Club with a 60's theme. It was suggested that Golden Jubilee souvenirs could be used as raffle prizes and that possibly a 'golden' theme be used for decoration of the room etc. Golden Jubilee booklets and souvenirs are still available to purchase from the piety shop.

SAFEGUARDING:

Steve McBride and Dominic Cullen attended the meeting to provide an update to the Safeguarding process. The Disclosure Barring Service replaces CRB with all forms relating to this now changing. The certificates will be sent to the home of the individual and then should be presented into work/school. This will

require more chasing up and more work as an employing organisation. Many volunteers will require DBS clearing quite soon so this will logistically be a very busy time.

This is a transition period but as a Parish we need to be seen as doing the right thing and some common sense is apparent with these changes.

The group leaders get together for a meeting at St Josephs on October 4th when more accurate information should be to hand and the process can continue to move forward. These changes incur no financial cost to the Parish as it is a registered charity.

FUTURE VISION:

Ann Ward and Peter Barron had a meeting with Fr Jonathan prior to tonight's PPC meeting to understand Future Vision and what Fr Jonathan's aspirations are for the parish. The objective would be to kick start the parish into being more Christian and re-launch ourselves. We need to establish an objective and drive a message that we are an open house, genuinely believing that people are in need of our concern. We should look at the things we are doing well such as the furniture scheme and food bank but not sit on our laurels and push on from this.

Fr Jonathan commented that it would be wrong to push people into church but to try to create a new spirit in hearts and minds. People can be evangelised in many different ways..

Father Jonathan quoted **A** – Attendance, **B** – Building, **C** – Cash where we get stuck. We are often preoccupied by **ABC** when we should be paying more attention to **D** – **DISCIPLESHIP**. Increased **Confidence** in the gospel in which we are redeemed by Christ. Increased **Conviction** in Church where Christ Jesus lives. Increased **Clarity** around the mission strategy.

Archbishop Malcolm quoted from the Joy of the Gospel of Pope Francis that we should be 'Credible Christians'

In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love.

Fr Stephen commented that the United States catholic church uses many facts, figures and questionnaire's to look into how they behave. Mass attendance on Sunday's is coming down sharply.. Experience with Jesus is key and parishioners are called to be energised Christians. Catholic people need to change if a Parish will change.

Fr Jonathan played a dvd asking the question What Are Our Frontlines? his could be Home, Leisure, Work or other areas of life. We need to think about our own Frontlines and make the most of all opportunities, for example talking to a stranger in church or in our general lives. We are doing this all the time without knowing it and we need to be encouraged to realise that what we are doing is important and not to deny our faith.

We are not at the actions stage in this process yet, we need to audit what the parish does now, how we can improve it and then move on to other areas.

It was suggested that any PPC members who are available could meet on Thursday 15th May at 7.30pm for a further discussion regarding Future Vision prior to the next full PPC meeting in June.

AOB

Edward Almond mentioned the PPC elections and is going to circulate the relevant information by email.

Fr Jonathan and Peter Barron commented on the current situation at the High School. The school has a strong governing body and any apparent inactivity is down to legal requirements. The flow of information has been controlled but more information will be released soon so that the due process can continue.

DATE OF NEXT PPC MEETING: Wednesday 4th June @ 7.30pm

PRAYER: Christine Lemmon

CHAIRPERSON: Peter Barron