

St Mary's Leyland
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Wednesday 13 April 2016

PRAYER: Gaye Beirne

WELCOME: Celia Neill [Chair]

PRESENT; Fr Jonathan, Fr Stephen, Edward Almond, Sr Veronica, Christine Lemmon, Sue Mills, Gaye Beirne, Lesley Raven, Celia Neill, Tim Sullivan, Pauline Strachan

APOLOGIES: Fr Paul, Jeremy Watson, Alex Anthony, Jenny Hollinshead,

MATTERS ARISING from previous Minutes;

Easter Sunday 6pm was well attended with 80+ at mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

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

PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS/PARISH EVENTS:

Holy Week Services

Good Friday Walk of Witness.

24 hour vigil

Year of Mercy events; Focolare charism, Jesuits, Reconciliation service, Divine Mercy Sunday.

Primary School's Maundy Thursday Service; Our three local primary schools plus high school staff in attendance for part of their INSET day.

High school mass.

Reconciliation Service for high school pupils.

St Anne's Primary visit to look around the church.

Visits from Coppull primary school and the U3A.

Quinquennial survey

Item 5; Finances and building work;

Accounts were circulated.

Income; offertory increased by £2000+ (this was £1K more than predicted in the budget) and

Funerals & Cemetery by £3800+.

Tax refund on Gift Aid £4500+ for 4 months only.

Final balance for April 2016 will be paid in August.

Expenditure: Pastoral item is £4000 over budget [There have been exceptional expenses involving among other things, the Year of Mercy £1400, Furniture Van £800 included in this amount].

Extraordinary expenditure- Renewal of Link Corridor supported by a substantial legacy.

Future projects; Kitchen upgrade opposite the library starting in May. Grill for heating system

awaiting estimate. Replacement windows in Blessed Sacrament Chapel, a long term project needing Historical Churches and Ampleforth Abbey Trustees approval. Costing currently unknown.

Pothole repairs. Quinquennial Survey.

Item 6; Holy week, Easter feedback.

All services went well from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday. One person was confirmed and one became a Catholic on Easter Saturday.

Comment made that at the start of the Easter Vigil and possibly on Palm Sunday those outside on the piazza had their view blocked by those parishioners who remained on the steps. Action needed for next year. There is another suggestion: to put the readings before the liturgy of the fire and lighting the candle.

Many children and Fr Paul this year had their feet washed on Maundy Thursday.

Item 7; HOLY YEAR OF MERCY; update

Events held since last PPC meeting; 24 hr Vigil and Reconciliation Service.

Proposed plans for next few months ending 20 November 2016 [details to be arranged];

Sunday 29 May – Corpus Christi – devotional afternoon.

Sunday 26 June – Day of Pilgrimage - Focus the Diocesan Priesthood.

Thursday 7 July – evening – Charism of the Redemptorists.

Sunday 14 August – Assumption of Our Lady – De Lammernais Brothers or Sisters of Notre Dame.

Sunday 1 October – Deanery pilgrimage day

Saturday 22 October – Benedictine Day – Focus on the theme of Peace.

Sunday 20 November – Feast of Christ the King – Prayer and Praise – young people to be involved.

Item 8; Family and Parish as a Family

Family is fundamental to the life of the church but is in crisis around the world. Fewer families are coming to church on Sundays, many reasons noted. Pope Francis says better not to condemn that there are few nuclear families but rather find the positive in them.

Family also includes the institutions of schools, neighbourhoods and the local church itself. John Bosco says that the way to older people is to involve the children. Eg Maundy Thursday Service, Youth Mass

Steve McBride [Parish Youth coordinator with links to the High school] spoke to the Pastoral Council. He reported that this is the first year that new youth group members don't all go to our high school and none of them attends church. It is difficult to get them involved in the church and Parish Life. So Steve is going on the Y8 pilgrimage to encourage them to get involved in the Parish, and to consolidate family involvement too. This is the vision.

This links in with a matter raised by a parishioner that fewer young people were attending church on Sundays.

Other ideas to get young people involved; Ampleforth, Castlerigg, Youth Mass once per month possibly on a Sunday evening [invite Grandparents], music as an expression, adopt an older person, housebound, grandparent's day. These may help towards parental involvement as these young people move from primary to high school. Time is needed to plan this.

New initiative; Faith in Action National Catholic Award –bronze, silver and gold. Steve is attending training on 18 May at LACE.

Group to plan this initiative; Fr Jonathan, Steve McBride and Anthony Cave, high school chaplain.

AOB;

Election of Officers [due in June]; those whose term is ending are Pauline Strachan, Celia Neill, Tim Sullivan, Christine Lemmon, Jeremy Watson. Those who wish to stand for another term to contact Lesley.

Suggestion of co-opted members from our younger parishioners who would attend 2/3 times a year. Steve to talk with Anthony for committed young people forming a small side group. It needs a purpose.

Comment made that the mass for young people may be difficult in its understanding so alternatives could be a prayer service, having thoughts and ideas within the service rather than a mass which may be at a more comfortable level. Could form a discussion with young people.

Comments re Eucharistic ministers; rota is not really being stuck to. If someone can't make it one week then should they contact someone else to stand in? Could contact details be given out? Fr Jonathan will look into this. We need to have a meeting of the ministers of the Eucharist.

Next meeting; Thursday 23 June 2016 at 7.30pm

Chair; Edward Almond

Prayer: Sr Veronica Meeting closed at 9.00pm