

**St Mary's Leyland
Parish Council
Wednesday 28th January 2015**

PRESENT: Fr Jonathan, Fr Paul, Alex Anthony, Sue Mills, Edward Almond, Ann Ward, Gaye Beirne, Pauline Strachan, Jeremy Watson, Lesley Raven, Celia Neill, Christine Lemmon, Sister Veronica.

APOLOGIES: Fr Stephen, Tim Sullivan, Peter Barron.

PRAYER: Led by Gaye Beirne.

MINUTES: Amendments required to minutes from previous meeting noted.

PARISH EVENTS:

Primary School's Christmas carol concert
High school Christmas carol concert
Pram Service
Healing Service
Advent Course
Golden Jubilee Parish Party
Reconciliation Service
Sacramental Programme
White Flower Appeal
Catenian Family Ramble

HIGH SCHOOL CHANGES: On 18th December trusteeship of the High School passed from Ampleforth Abbey to the Archdiocese of Liverpool. A newly reconstituted Governing Body is now in place having only 12 members in line with Government best practice thinking. A number of parishioners have raised questions/ concerns as to the current situation in the High School so it was agreed that Fr Jonathan would put a statement in the weekend bulletin to clarify. The statement will reassure that the pastoral care of the school continues under the care of the monks from Ampleforth who look after the parish. There will be no change in the daily close contact as regards the spiritual affairs of the school.

HEATING UPDATE: Two new boilers have been installed in the house & a new boiler in the garage resulting in the house being heated far more efficiently and the benefits being felt. Also new heaters within the Narthex and chapels with the church feeling much warmer as a result of all the improvements that have taken place. The lighting in general is also much better.

WAY OF LIFE: Christine mentioned that the method of readers communicating the focus topic had not worked very well as it was too short & did not stand out. Also there were only 3 comments in the book which is disappointing. Fr Jonathan said that this was still a very important initiative and should be continued. The issue was raised of some people talking in church before

mass and disturbing those that want some quiet time. After some discussion it was thought a good idea to consider a lay person introducing the mass, giving details of the readings and Eucharistic prayer being used and this would also be an appropriate time to speak about the Way of Life focus point for the week. Raising the congregation's attention in this way would hopefully result in a period of silence just before the commencement of mass.

It was also commented on that a number of people sit in the ambulatory during the mass rather than the main body of the church & that sometimes talking is heard from this area during the mass. This was discussed but is a difficult situation as these people are attending mass and any negative comments may dissuade them from attending in future.

The Way of Life focus group will meet again before Lent to discuss further initiatives.

CHRISTMAS MASSES: Positive comments from Parishioners about all the Christmas services. The children at the Christmas Eve vigil mass enjoyed the glow sticks and the involvement of the children at the 10am morning mass was lovely and something that should be built upon in future years. The 8am mass with the brass band was also enjoyed by all attending.

AOB: Two parishioners have mentioned to Christine that the church website is out of date. There are old names on such as Fr Ambrose on the list of priests and PPC details are out of date. Fr Jonathan currently updates the website but this issue should possibly be revisited with PPC involvement as very time consuming.

Alex Anthony brought a letter received from a parishioner who was concerned about the length of the 9.30am Sunday morning mass. Recently the mass has only been finishing at 10.40am and in the writers opinion this is caused by too many interruptions during the mass in the way of short talks & singing by the priest. Children are getting restless and little church numbers are decreasing. It was pointed out that although all of us want more people to come to mass on Sundays, we may be putting people off by the style of things.

A later finish to the 9.30am mass is also causing a problem in that the people socialising in the Narthex afterwards are disturbing the parishioners arriving and wanting some quiet time before the 11am mass. Some ideas were discussed:

- Bidding prayers are often very long
- Hymns may be lasting a long time and verses need cutting back
- The Priests need to take note and try to ensure that there was a greater gap between the 9.30am mass and the 11.00am mass.
- We should aim in general to finish the 9.30am mass by about 10.15 if possible.

Next Meeting would be 4th March at 7.30pm

Chair Person Christine Lemmon

Prayer Pauline Strachan