

Our Lady of Mercy & St Joseph Catholic Church, Lymington
Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 24th November 2022 at 7pm

Present:

Fr David
Magdalen Chadbourn (Chair) (MC)
Linda Guilding (LG)
Pete Lawes (PL)
Cathryn Lawrence (CL)
Eileen Rayner (ER)
Mike Reynolds (MR)
Keith Stuttaford (KS)
Rini Stuttaford (RS)

Apologies

Olivia Cowan (OC)
Vicki Pent (VP)

Opening Prayer

Fr David led with a prayer and a meditation from Fr Richard Rohr.

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2022 were approved.

Matters arising

2. Presbytery windows.

Gerry, the carpenter has not yet started the work on the windows. He has been delayed on a previous job.

LG responded to the email from Liza Smith, Grants officer at the Diocese re asking if any grants were available to repair windows on a listed building or in an historic church. No reply as of yet.

2 b) Reporting back to Finance committee requesting detail of the building project:

The Finance committee concentrated on signing off the end of year accounts and what was going to be presented at the AGM. Any other business on agenda for next meeting. Quinquennial may need doing again.

PPC asked for an explanation of the Quinquennial and what was entailed. Fr D explained a surveyor gave a structural survey and a report every 5 years.

Recommended short urgent, medium- and long-term work to be done. Not a diocesan surveyor, but diocese recommends surveyors to use. There is also an electrical inspection every 5 years. Gas annually. Fire safety equipment annually. Parish pays for all these safety checks.

Fr D reported on water leak from the flat roof over the toilet area near back door of presbytery. Roofer to give quote. Also tiles on the church roof have slipped. May need a cherry picker/scaffold to reach them.

Concern if wind catches the tiles they could come down- danger to parishioners/visitors to the church.

Agenda

1. Feedback from the AGM

All positive comments

Parishioners surprised at the amount which had been done through Covid and since the last AGM.

Fr D said all information goes through the newsletter.

There was a question re Contactless giving (See later).

Having the AGM during the homily slot, and PPC/Finance committee members available at the end of Mass to answer questions, was a good idea as we reached all those present & took up less time. St Anne's will run their AGM in the same way.

Concern re -Confirmation children. Once confirmed how can we keep them involved in the parish? (See later)

2. Children's Liturgy

CL gave a report on Children's Liturgy. Pre Covid. Had between 4 and 12 children: Gospel teaching session, regular activity. Took items to altar in procession at offertory.

Where we are now? Need Children to run the CL and few young children & their families have returned since Covid.

Those who have are very well behaved and focussed.

Cathryn has been involved with, and has led, the Children's Liturgy group since her now adult daughter was little. She would like to step down, but is happy to be on the rota for a 3-month handover period. 2 other adults previously on the rota are prepared to be on a new rota if needed. But they need the children!

The leaders don't need to be a brilliant or qualified teacher. They need to have a love of God and be willing to pass on the message.

Any Leaders/helpers will need Safeguarding training/DBS checked.

Can we look at involving the children more in the Mass?

- A Mass leaflet aimed at children
- Offertory procession to be reinstated
- Mass books at the back of church for families to use (OC has sourced some)
- Can the homily/part of the homily be explained for/directed to the children
- Can parents with children be directed to the front pews so children can be more involved

LG : as a result of children from the school reading at Queen's Requiem and the Blessing of the Animals service other youngsters have asked if they can read at church and is training them to read ready for the Children's Mass at Christmas. We have 3 from year 6/7 reading at that Mass.

MR: church he'd visited in Cornwall - Children's Liturgy group take items up in the offertory & the priest explains to the congregation what they had been doing.

KS: Do we know how many families on our register have young children? Could we write to those families saying if we had a Mass specifically for children would they attend?

ER: Social gathering for parents with children?

Fr D: Largest group last year for 1st Holy Communion were from the Polish community plus Helen R and family (Milford parishioners).

Children's Mass on Christmas Eve- could we target and invite families with children on the register?

Parents attend the Blessing of the Animals and the Carol Concert- where their children are involved.

You involve the children by involving the children.

Decision:

- Bring back the offertory procession. Children to be selected by Welcomers. **Action: Fr David**
- Older children can be involved taking up the collection.
- Younger children can use the 'clicker' to tally number of people present.
- Welcomers encourage families to sit at the front of church so children can see. **ACTION: Welcomers/PL**
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First Holy Communion & Confirmation

Next 1st Holy Communion programme will be advertised after Christmas.

This year the programme ran on Saturday afternoon, and they finished in time to attend 6pm Mass and were encouraged to do so.

The Confirmation programme spans 2 years. Next programme will commence 2024

Four were confirmed at the cathedral in 2022. Only one do we see regularly in church.

A discussion followed -How do we encourage these young people to return?
No conclusion was reached.

3. The 10 year plan

MC: Is there anything we can do Sacramentally or practically towards our contribution to the 10 year plan?

- See above re involving the children.
- A social to bring the community together. (See AOB)
- Housebound- getting them to Mass
- Friendship club
- Rummikub
- SVP
- Nichola Kirby is very involved with new initiatives with Churches Together Lymmington/Pennington. Can we get feedback for the next meeting?
- 'Warm hubs' are being set up for people having a warm space in this time of energy crisis.
- St Anne's is also creating a 'Warm hub' with soup and a drink. Grants are available to cover costs. MC & LG looking into it.
- Catenians instrumental in visiting.

We won't know the boundary of the NF until January. Ringwood & Fordingbridge have expressed a desire to be included in NF 'one parish' boundary. It may make it too large. Totton will be moving to Southampton.

4. A.O.B

4a. Times of Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve: 5pm Mass for children; 8pm Carols then Mass

Christmas Day: 9am St Francis; 10.30 am OLMSJ; 12noon St Anne's

No Mass Christmas night.

No Mass Boxing Day.

4b. An invitation

The staff and children from our catholic primary school has invited PPC to mince pies and Carols under the tree at 3.15pm on Wednesday 7th December

in the school hall. 6 attending from CWL. 8 from PPC. LG to contact school with numbers (for the mince pies!) **ACTION: LG**

4c. Carols, mulled wine and mince pies

- It was suggested to invite parishioners to Carols then mulled wine and mince pies at 2.30pm on Sunday 18th December. This would hopefully bring parishioners together.
- Invitation to go to all 3 parishes. **ACTION: LG**
- LG to see if Elaine T free to play. **ACTION: LG**
- PL and team to manage teas/coffees. **ACTION: PL**
- LG mulled wine.
- Requests for home made or bought mince pies. **ACTION: ALL**

4d. Contactless Giving

Cost up to date. Is it paying for itself?

People used to paying with contactless but still giving via the plate and STO's.

LG to ask Frances for info to attach to minutes. **ACTION: LG**

The link for the WIFI was unstable. A cable has been put in which has improved the situation but not cured it completely.

4e. Closer to Christ Campaign

Fr D: The campaign has begun.

The company managing the campaign gave the names of 25 parishioners from the 3 parishes as identified as giving generously to previous campaigns. I have to ask them to join the scheme.

They start with 25 to give incentives to others.

There have been at least 5 refusals so far.

A fuller report will be given at the next PPC meeting. **ACTION: Fr D**

The meeting concluded at 8.40 pm, with prayer led by Fr David

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 26th January at 7pm
(N.B. the change of date from 19th Jan)**

Attachments:

Memo from Frances Walker -Finance- to accompany Graphs

Graph: Contactless Giving from April to December 2022

Graph: Sales and Revenue January to November 2022

Graph: Transactions January to November 2022

Items put forward at this meeting for the next agenda

- Closer to Christ Campaign- update
- The Diocesan 10 year Strategy plan- update. Moving forward.
- How do we encourage our young people to return after Confirmation?
- Feedback from Nichola Kirby re CTLP- invite to speak?