

OUR LADY & ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH LYMINGTON

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MEETING: Thursday 16th March 2023 at 7pm Joseph's Place

PPC MEMBERS:

Fr David Adams	(FrD),
Magdalen Chadbourn	(MC) (Chair)
Olivia Cowan	(OC)
Linda Guilding	(LG)
Pete Lawes	(PL)
Cathryn Lawrence	(CL)
Vicki Pent	(VP)
Eileen Rayner	(ER)

APOLOGIES

Keith Stuttaford	(KS)
Rini Stuttaford	(RS)

Opening Prayer Fr David opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 26th January were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

Cost of Living Crisis

OC and PL collated all the information re the help available in the local area and produced a list of places offering help. With the help of VP they produced a poster which will be displayed in church and Joseph's Place with the information sheet. There was a discussion as to alterations to font and colour of the poster which VP will update. One poster will be laminated for the church gate. The final version will be sent to NK. Our thanks to OC, PL & VP for all their work collating the information and creating the poster.

When the poster is displayed Fr D to draw attention to it at the end of Mass.

ACTION: Fr D

TEN YEAR PLAN

All boundaries have now been finalised and all comments during the consultation period noted and distributed. There is a meeting of the Diocesan priests with the Bishop on 28th June where it is hoped to get further details and how we can move forward.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Draft letter to the Bishop re releasing the Building fund to pay for repairs.

The letter was met favourably. There were a few errors which needed addressing.

2nd para. ...*to your attention our concern and that of our the parishioners as regards.....*

Para 3: The Weld Family, not Weald.

Changing *we* to *they* throughout.

Signing off: *We look forward to hearing from you....*

Magdalen Chadbourn, Chair of the PPC on behalf of the PPC and the parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy & St Joseph Catholic parish. **ACTION: MC**

When the letter is posted to the Bishop Fr David to attach it to the newsletter for parishioners. **ACTION: FR D**

2. FEEDBACK FROM PARISH EVENTS

i) Laudato Si' March 5th

This was a 3-parish event hosted by OLMSJ. 50 people were in attendance. Some of those present were anxious re the number of people in the small room, doors and windows had to be opened, some wore masks. After a prayer by Fr D and a warm welcome by the Chair of OLMSJ PPC, we watched the shortened video from CAFOD was used to explain the principles of Laudato Si' which was originally intended for Secondary school pupils, so some felt the 1hr 20 minutes video of the Pope's message should have been shown instead. Others felt the CAFOD version got across the essential points. Those present who wished to see the longer version of the Pope's video and the full text of the Pope's speech were directed to the Vatican website.

The parishioners enjoyed listening to the video made by the children from our Eco-school, OLSJ, on all the things they are doing to their grounds and beyond to make them a better place, and the awards they have received for their work.

They also read their Eco speeches on the Oceans which pictured a grim scene unless action was taken quickly by the world.

AM gave an informative talk on St Anne's Care for Creation group, why they formed and what they have achieved both on their own and teamed up with St Saviours. A copy of AM's talk was distributed to the PPC members.

It was commented that the Lymington parishioners didn't seem to realise it was a 3-parish event. This was the same comment made after we hosted Carols & mulled wine at Christmas. Need to put the invite in the newsletter under 'All parishes' and Fr D announce it at all Masses. **ACTION: Fr D**

It was deemed a very successful event and we, as a PPC need to investigate further.

MC will write on behalf of PPC to thank those taking part- the Eco group at the school and AM. **ACTION: MC**

It was noted that the parish hosting the event runs the event and the other 2 parishes are invited to attend.

2ii) Light on our Shadows- Lenten service by M D

This was a service open to parishioners from all 3 parishes but organised by MD & Fr D. There were about 30 people present from all 3 parishes.

It was felt this was a calm and spiritual event with time for personal reflection, scripture, music and an enlightening talk from MD.

It was a very appropriate Lenten service and appreciated by all.

MD has offered to do another service, possibly for Advent.

MC to write a thank you note on behalf of the PPC. **ACTION: MC**

2iii) Youth Mass

This was well received. Parishioners enjoyed seeing the children taking part in such an enthusiastic way & entered the church with a smile on their faces.

Children were complimented on their diction. Next Youth Mass 3rd Dec- 1st Sunday of Advent.

MC to write to thank the children on behalf of the PPC (a combined letter with Eco group letter). The children weren't all from our school. AJ, LR & JD (see LG for names) need separate thanks. **ACTION; MC & LG**

2 iv) Future events One Mass

The 3 Chairs decided to re-introduce the 'One Mass' to bring all 3 parishes together. Years ago they had 'One Mass' for Pentecost at Brockenhurst College which was well received. It has been suggested to have Brockenhurst village hall as the venue as it is large enough and has plenty of car parking space. The feast of Christ the King was suggested as a date, but the hall is not available. MC to contact the Chairs from St Anne's and St Francis to agree another date in October avoiding half term : 21 – 29 October: Sundays 22nd and 29th October.

ACTION: MC

v) Coronation

It was decided that there will be a parish event to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles after Mass on 7th May. KS & RS have volunteered to organise the event with the help of members of the PPC. If it were a BBQ, with people bringing salads and puddings, would there be enough help? NJ & GH have run the BBQ at past events. If not, could we employ someone? Free or charge? K&R are back from holiday next week so they will take it up from there. The Coronation weekend is before the next PPC meeting so a group will have to be set up which K&R will lead.

ACTION:MC, KS,RS

3. LENT SERVICES/EASTER

3 i) OC reported back on Stations of the Cross. They have been led by representatives of Parish groups on Friday mornings. There has been on average 10 people attending. A discussion took place on times and days which may mean it was accessible to more people. It was decided before next year to consider other options, for example have the Stations of the Cross in an evening for those who are working during the day.

ACTION: Lent 2024 OC & FrD

3ii) Welcomers from 3 parishes: As the Triduum is all at OLMSJ the Welcomers from our 3 parishes have been invited to welcome at the services. Only 1 had volunteered, but LG would ask again

ACTION: LG

3iii) Blessing of the Easter food. This will be Saturday 8th April at 10am at OLMSJ. To be advertised in the newsletter & via the Polish community.

3iv) Easter services.

Holy Thursday 7.30pm.

Good Friday- Stations of the Cross 10am

Lord's passion -3pm

Reconciliation- 5-6pm

Saturday- Blessing of the Easter food 10am

Easter Vigil 8pm

Easter Sunday- 9am St Francis, 10.30am OLMSJ, 12noon St Anne's

3v) The Paschal candle stand. Fr David has asked if volunteers could polish the brass Paschal candle stand ready for Easter. ER is to lead volunteers. Fr David to split the candle for polishing. Wednesday 29th March @ 10am. **ACTION: FR D**

4) 'BELONG AND BELIEVE'

Fr D introduced a CaFE programme: Belong & Believe. A suggestion for a programme to renew our faith. Looking back to Celtic Christianity. Are there inspirations/lessons to help us move forward? How our Celtic past can help us today. 5 sessions. Suggested date late June/July. Open to all 3 parishes.

ACTION: Fr D

5)WHAT IS HAPPENING ELSEWHERE.

LG updated PPC on what is happening elsewhere in the pastoral area:

- Engaging parishioners in discussion on 10 year plan.
- Grandparents group- prayer & chat with refreshments
- Social events- Lent soup lunch, parish meal at local restaurant, quiz nights etc.

Discussion followed. Good to know what's going on in our area but our priority is getting our parishioners engaged in what we're doing in the parish to take the parish forward.

- Wintershall

'The Life of Christ' : Hundreds of actors bring the story of Jesus to life in an open-air epic production set in stunning Surrey countryside near Guildford. Young and old from all walks of life will be mesmerised as the story unfolds across three captivating acts from 10am to 3.30pm. 27th June- 1st July.

Adult £25, Child 3-18yrs :£15, Family 2 adults, 2 children: £65.

There is a shuttle buggy for those with walking difficulty.

Groups over 30 ring 01483 892167 deposit of 25%,

with the balance payable 4 weeks prior to the performance date.

CL & PL to look into it and getting group together/a coach. **ACTION: CL & PL**

- The Dominican Sisters at Sway are offering online formation courses. See <https://www.lightoftruth.uk> for further details.

6) Parish Statistics

The statistics have to be completed once a year for the Diocese. It looks at the numbers of baptised infants and adults, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Marriages, deaths, catechists, communion to the housebound and the Mass count. The Mass count takes place over 4 weekends, dates set by the diocese. The increase in numbers between 2021 and 2022 were encouraging.

2023: The average numbers attending Sunday Mass from January to 12th March is 93.

The average number for the 6pm Mass on Saturday for the same period is 39.7

The average for both Masses combined so far is: 133

Other statistics: Food for thought

OLMSJ has 440 parishioners on the parish register.

107 are children age 17 and under, 333 are adults.

We have on average 133 attending Mass at the weekend, therefore 307 of those on our parish register aren't attending Mass. This could be for a variety of reasons- housebound, illness, poor mobility to get to Mass etc.

7. UPDATES

7 i) School

- Assemblies: Fr D and LG are into school every Monday in Lent to take the assembly.
- It is based on Catholic social teaching: Preferential option for the poor. How do we look after those at home, school, in our local community, worldwide
- Junior Chaplains: The school has just appointed JC's. Their first job is to focus on prayer in Communal worship and assembly.
- Stations of the Cross: LG is rehearsing a re-enactment of the events of Holy week to be shown to parents and the rest of the school.

7ii) CWL

- CWL attended the World Day of Prayer, in Milford on 3rd March. It was written by the women of Taiwan for the World Day of Prayer.
- CWL are having a Lent Retreat at Dominican Priory on 21st March.
- They are funding/organising Easter eggs for the seafarers : Stella Maris
- They would like to arrange an annual competition in photography or Art for the school and award a trophy. LG to speak with Head in first instance. **ACTION: LG**
- In May, WG will be representing the CWL at a conference – 'World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations ' in Assisi following on from a meeting in Rome where Pope Francis will be present.

AOB

- Holiday : FrD said he will be on holiday in Ireland in May. Fr Shaun Budden will be celebrating Sunday Mass and Fr Quarmby will be celebrating Mass at St Anne's. Fr Q could do a weekday Mass. LT and PL will cover the practical aspects- opening of church and gate etc. Both priests will need a Sacristan to set up before Mass.
Bills: Fr D -bills now showing increases.
- No Water bill yet, only Wastewater which is £300 a year
- Figures for February: Gas approx. £1,300, Electricity approx. £500- churches not capped.
- Council tax £3,000
It was suggested this info goes in newsletter for parishioners.

ACTION: FR D

The meeting finished with prayer at 8.35pm

**NEXT MEETING Wednesday 7th June at 7pm
(N.B. Date changed from 1st June)**

AGENDA

NEXT MEETING

- Date for 'Belong and Believe' late June/early July FR D
- Set dates for PPC meetings September onwards MC/ Fr D
- Review the Coronation celebratory event RS/KS
- Pete- apologies will be away
- Cathryn – apologies may be away
- *Who will give the Update on Wintershall as OCL may be and PL will be on holiday
- Update on CWL trophy for school ER/LG
- Health & Safety Review Easter- numbers, car park LG/PL
- Response from Bishop re letter about Building Fund MC
- Update school Fr D
- Update 'One Mass' MC
- Update on CWL events ER