

## **St. Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 7pm at Our Lady's Church**

- 1. In attendance:** Shadia Anderson (SA), David Curtis (DC), Sue Finch (SF), Brian Gallagher (BG), John Hannacher (JH) Chair, Fr. Roy Karakkattu (Fr. Roy), Deirdre Lay (DL), Finbarr O'Donoghue (FO), Anne Parsons (AP), Debbie Rogers (DR) - minutes

**Apologies:** Vivianne Gattoc (VG) and Peter Kirk (PK)

- 2. Prayer & Welcome:** JH welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced with a prayer from Fr. Roy.
- 3. The Minutes** of the last meeting, held 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022, were approved.
- 4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary.**

#### **4.1 Finance – Sue Finch**

SF handed out her report and confirmed that a Finance Committee had been formed along with their areas of responsibilities.

Parish finances: the statement from the Diocese at the end of March showed there is £151,246 in the account, an increase of £4,000 from the start of the year, although £10k was received as rent on the Presbytery (from Fr. Ken). Sue reiterated the need for our income to increase to mitigate the rising utility bills and the increase in Diocesan Levy. A GAD appeal was made in March, but it is early days before we will be able to see how successful it has been.

The Entertainer will be parking up to 30 cars from October to December (to cover the busy Christmas period). We will be required to give at least 4 days notice if the car park is required for a large church gathering. The Diocese want to double the rent to (£1.73 per day), however, concern was expressed that we may lose this client if we charge too much.

#### **4.2 Liturgy – Vince Smith**

VS confirmed that Helen Detre will not be available to play the organ at mass in future.

Fr. Roy has met a musician, called James, who will hopefully come and play the organ from time to time.

VS asked for permission from the Council to purchase new hymn books. VS and DL to identify the hymn books required.

It is thought that the live streaming of mass is mainly being watched by parishioners who are perhaps unwell and unable to attend mass. It was decided to carry on with the live streaming for the time being.

It was recognised that we need more Altar Servers and they need training. Fr. Roy mentioned he would speak with Philip to ask if he would be happy to train them.

Children's Liturgy: no-one has come forward, but it was felt that there are not enough children attending mass at present.

#### **4.3 Formation – Brian Gallagher**

The First Holy Communion (7<sup>th</sup> May 2022) went very well and the children will hopefully all come to the Corpus Christi mass on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

BG reported that there were 40 Confirmation candidates (11<sup>th</sup> June) and it was a terrific day. He said that we need to work on getting them back together for some post Confirmation gatherings. St Joseph's has a Teenager's Liturgy and we need to find ways to keep ours involved e.g. perhaps a Youth Parish Council?

Fr. Roy confirmed that Confirmation would be held every two years and First Holy Communion every year. He suggested some sort of programme to engage the parents of teenagers.

#### **4.4 Social & Cultural – Deirdre Lay**

DL confirmed the Parish Lunch has been postponed from 19<sup>th</sup> June to 26<sup>th</sup> June following the AGM which is at 12.15pm that day. More volunteers are required for the Parish Lunches going forward.

The Volunteers' party is to be rescheduled and 7<sup>th</sup> August was agreed from 1pm, after coffee.

**Action: An invitation needs to be sent to all the volunteers.**

The Feast of St Aidan's BBQ and walk is on 28<sup>th</sup> August.

Quiz night – DC and Jane Curtis to organise. It could be held at Our Lady's School, but it was noted that the school already has one planned for October. DC suggested after Christmas – early January.

**Action: DL to liaise with DC and Jane for dates and DR to check with OL School PTA for any of planned dates.**

**\*Update since meeting:** OLS have a race night (no quiz) planned for the 1<sup>st</sup> week in October and the Christmas Fayre is likely to be during the last week of term (Friday).

A Christmas Fayre was suggested before the schools break up. The Polish Club would be the ideal place since it has the space and there is no charge.

DL suggested end of Nov/early Dec and a provisional date of 26<sup>th</sup> November, 12-4pm was suggested.

**Action: DL to speak with Fr Roman re the Polish Club and check dates.**

#### **4.5 Maintenance – Finbarr O'Donoghue**

JH welcomed FO back following a cycling accident.

Kerb repair: Tim is to come back with a quote to repair the kerbstones.

JH confirmed that a lock has now been fitted to the Choir door fire exit.

The light in the car park is now working and the lawn mounted ones removed. There have been no complaints from neighbours and although it shines into the house Fr. Ken is ok with it.

**Action JH: Review the situation in the winter to decide if the angle of the light needs to be adjusted.**

CCTV Camera to be installed for the whole campus to dissuade trespassing.

SA recommended a good system, including the doorbell. DL said knows it and it is very good. **Action: DL and FO to get together to discuss.**

The white lines in the car park are to be repainted plus reserved spaces for 'Priest' and 'Deacon'. **Action DL to advise FO of quote received.**

The fascia repair has been delayed from 10<sup>th</sup> and JH is waiting for a new date t.b.c.

The trees blocking the view of the road junction are not growing in our property. BG to follow up with council

BG also mentioned that there are 3 windows in the church that need repairing – one near choir, altar and to the left of the church.

**Action: JH & FO to investigate**

#### **4.6 Ecumenical – Vivianne Gattoc**

There is an ecumenical group of 30 people from 'Beyond Difference' coming to church with refreshments served afterwards on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

#### **4.7 Youth – Shadia Anderson**

Shadia informed that she had been very involved in the team teaching and the programme for confirmation. She also said it was encouraging to see the group so engaged at the Blaze retreat. She would like to set up some sort of group with the recent cohort and keep them in touch. Perhaps lessons from CAFOD Young Leaders could help and support events like the Fayre. It would be good to decide on some topics/themes which may be of interest to them e.g. what CAFOD does, invite Deborah Purfield to come to a talk/meeting.

SA also suggested a Pizza evening before the end of term.

DC suggested inviting some charity contacts, something like the Uganda appeal gives them something to think about and is usually a more successful way of engaging them with something they can really get involved with and make a difference.

BG suggested family readers at mass, parents and children reading together.

Fr Roy liked that idea and asked if emails could be sent to the parents suggesting this.

#### **4.8 Pastoral Area Council – Peter Kirk**

It was recognised that the Pastoral Area is still finding its feet and Fr. Roy confirmed he has regular Clergy Meetings.

#### **5. Any Other Business**

The AGM will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> June at 12.15pm. JH issued a proposed Agenda.

**Action: JH asked if the Members could attend and send him a few words to include in the report and if they could do this by Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June.**

JH will then put together a draft report and it will be read out at the AGM.

SF to put a Financial Statement together for this meeting.

SA asked if there could be a sign-up sheet available on a clipboard for people to sign up to activities? DL suggested that it would be better to put this on the website as more likely for younger people to see it there. There could also be a section asking for their ideas and suggestions.

JH asked if everyone was happy to continue on the Committee. Anne Parsons and Vivianne had confirmed they were as elective members and Vince Smith & John Hannacher were as Fr Roy's nominees.

BG asked if we were going to consider the use of card reading machines for collections, particularly as people are not carrying as much cash. DC said that the cost was prohibitive as there was a considerable charge for using them. Fr. Roy mentioned the spiritual dimension of bringing something to offer (tangible) from the week at mass and giving by card changes this spiritual aspect. It was agreed the card machine is a good idea but not at the moment.

BG had circulated copies of the Confirmation formation slides.

It was noted that the toilets at the church ran short of toilet paper during the Confirmation Saturday. DL to ensure that the cleaners regularly top up the toilet paper.

Should we mention our car parking facilities on the website to assist visitors, especially for larger events? Concern was raised from SF and DL that if people know about our parking facilities it will encourage misuse.

DL mentioned that Declan had taken individual photos of the Confirmation candidates with Bishop David and she could provide copies of these. Fr. Roy asked BG to let the candidates know these photos are available if they would like them.

Fr. Roy asked for the confirmed social dates so that he can include in the newsletter and for them to be put on the website.

Fr. Roy suggested contacting parishioners who haven't been at mass for a while to encourage them to come back. He asked if members of the group could contact them as they already know them, sharing the calling amongst the group.

DC suggested it might be easier to invite them to a specific event e.g. the end of August BBQ or a social event.

Fr. Roy also mentioned that the Eucharistic Ministers are not getting a chance to serve at mass. He suggested he would stand back to allow the Deacon and Ministers to give out Communion. **Action: Eucharistic Minister rota will be needed.**

It has been announced that Fr. Alessandro (St. Columba's parish) is leaving and **4<sup>th</sup> September 2022** will be his last mass. It was suggested that something be organised for him before he leaves.

A new priest has been appointed and he will arrive at the end of September.

**The Next Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm at Our Lady's.**

JH thanked everyone and Fr. Roy closed the meeting with a prayer.

Debbie Rogers

14.6.22