

Minutes of the PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

### **Opening Prayer**

Joe began with an informal prayer, and everyone joined in saying the Hail Mary.

**Apologies** Claire Downham: John McManus.

**Present** Joe McCrossan, Elizabeth Barker, Joe Robinson, Lydia Fernandes, Philip Spencer, Helma Brown.

Kay Etienne and Matthew Larne have resigned from the committee due to family commitments.

**Minutes of Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> September** were passed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### **Matters Arising – Parish Constitution.**

Members had been asked to send their comments on these 8 bullet points to the secretary before the meeting.

Claire responded that she was happy with the format but did not comment further.

John Mc Manus made interesting comments on each point but after some discussion it was felt that his suggestion to reshape the table of the 8 bullet points was unnecessary.

These are the comments from the meeting:

- ***Search out and respond to the hopes, ideas, needs and concerns of parishioners.***  
Mass representatives should try to ascertain these from parishioners when they are contacted and should give this information when they are presented at Mass.
- ***Foster a sense of community in the parish.*** By organising events for all ages, welcoming at Mass and encouraging parishioners to attend the after-Mass coffee mornings.
- ***Grow in knowledge and awareness of what is already happening in the parish.***  
Newsletters and website need to be accurate and give more information. A quarterly report of past and future events leaflet to be published with photographs. The leaflet will be called "The Grapevine". Lydia agreed to be the compiler of this report.
- ***Encourage and support the good work of existing groups within the parish.*** Promote and support these groups by encouraging them to come forward with ideas. In our diverse community encourage nationalities to meet and mix with the whole community.

- **Evaluate carefully information gathered in order to contribute towards the making of decisions that reflect the value of the Gospel and the teachings of the Church.** Add to the parish survey, how can we help you to grow in Faith and link with the findings of the Synod.
- **Set long term and short-term pastoral goals for the parish.** This should be every year at the January meeting with the Finance Committee. Short-term would be one year and long term would be three years.
- **Provide opportunities for parishioners to grow in their relationship with God and with each other.** It was said that we have a Scripture and prayer group that meet once a fortnight on Zoom and a Rosary group that meet each week on Zoom. It was suggested that Advent and Lent talks be reintroduced, but Elizabeth organised these as part of her responsibilities as RE coordinator before she retired. No one else has been appointed to this work. **Joe to have a conversation with Fr Tom about this suggestion. ACTION JOE**
- **Develop, implement, and improve parish initiatives that assist parishioners in continuing efforts to live as effective Christians in society.** Do an annual survey asking for parishioners' comments and general concerns for the parish.

Elizabeth will send a Draft of the Constitution discussions to Joe and this will be discussed at the next meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November for presentation to the parish on 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> November at all Masses by Joe and Mass representatives. Joe will mention that there are two vacancies on the pastoral council. **Action Joe.** Lydia will add the photographs of members to the back page.

#### **4 Matters arising**

**Sponsored Walk** An enjoyable afternoon for those taking part who raised £350 with more money to come in.

**Parish Retreat** The day began with the celebration of Mass by Fr Micheal. There were about 30 people attending to listen to talks on the theme "Encounter with Christ" given by Derek Williams. Afterwards very positive comments were made.

**Eucharistic Ministers Retreat** was conducted by Canon John Minh for all ministers in the Deanery at St Philip Howard church in Cambridge. It was not well attended due probably to the inclement weather. 5 of us from St Ives were there and Jackie Tevlin was commissioned.

**Children's Liturgy Questionnaire** Only 2 had been returned so it was decided to postpone this until after Easter.

**DBS checks** John sent a comprehensive report to say that all checks are up to date at present.

**PPC members' photographs.** All members had sent their photos to Lydia who had drawn up a chart showing the members. This will be attached to the parish constitution, put on the website and church notice board.

**Finance member's photographs.** This has not been carried out although a request from this committee had been sent. It will be discussed at the joint meeting in January 2024.

**Filipino Night and Quiz.** Joe R said that all 60 tickets had been sold and more had been requested. He was calling a meeting with the ladies who had volunteered to provide the food. The event was scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> October.

### **ADVENT FAYRE December 9<sup>th</sup> 10am to 2pm**

Joe M changed the name of this event from Christmas Fayre to Advent Fayre as that is when it will be held. Joe drew up a plan where the various stalls could be sited in the parish hall. The following stalls were decided upon: Teas, coffees, mulled wine, bacon rolls or mince pies will be sold from the kitchen hatch and seating will be around the 3 round tables. Elizabeth and Claire to serve.

**Home made cakes and preserves** Lydia and Jason Breed

**Bottle tombola** Joe R

**Toy stall, NEW or Very good used toys.** Would you buy it for your child?

Volunteer

**Pin the nose on Rudolph** – Joe M

**Children's game** -?

**Pub game** – Philip

**Chocolate Fountain** – Robert

**Christmas flower arrangements/craft** -Flower ladies.

**Jewellery** – Helma and Elizabeth

**Christmas around the world** – Gifts suitable for Christmas presents from our multi national congregation - ?

**Will there be a raffle?**

An appeal for goods should be made as soon as possible from the pulpit and help with setting up and clearing up.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS. At the next meeting the main Agenda items will be The Constitution and Advent Fayre. Preparations to be decided upon for the presentation of the chairman and Mass representatives' who will distribute copies of the Constitution.**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm in the parish hall.