

MINUTES of MEETING OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Thursday 14th March 2024 in Parish Hall.

Opening Prayer – Fr Karol said a prayer to the Holy Spirit for guidance at this meeting. He passed around a letter of authority from Bishop Peter Collins to say he has been appointed as priest in charge of this parish until a Parish Priest is appointed.

Apologies - Claire D, John McM.

Present – Fr Karol, Joe Mc.(Chair), Eamonn B. (finance rep.) Elizabeth B (secretary), Joe R, Philip S, Lydia F, Helma B.

Minutes of last meeting – The minutes of the meeting on the 15th February were approved and signed as a true record.

Village Contacts – Although not every village in the parish has had a volunteer contact yet, it was decided to begin to set up the meetings with those parishioners who have volunteered.

The following dates were decided:

April 18th The Cock at Hemingford Grey and parishioners from Hemingford Abbots.

April 25th George and Dragon at Elsworth and parishioners from Boxworth.

May 2nd The Golden Lion – all areas of St Ives

May 9th The Duchess at Fenstanton and parishioners from Fen Drayton.

All meet ups on Thursdays will begin at 7pm. Further dates to be announced.

Purpose of the meetings: For Catholics to get to know each other in their area. To raise our profile in St Ives and villages by supporting events in these areas. Parish council members becoming aware of the skills and talents of our parishioners.

Parish Fundraising

Flyers for the **Emmaus Walk on April 14th** will be distributed after each Mass on Palm Sunday as well as a notice in the newsletter. The flyers will have a tear-off slip to be returned to the Mass reps with any intentions to be prayed for and donations if wished. The route will be the same as last time; Thicket, Houghton, Hemingford Abbots and Grey and return to Sacred Heart. Reps. will make an announcement after Mass on 16th /17th March.

Joe R had contacted HDC to be told that only a licence from them is required to run a **200 Club**. Tickets at £10 will be sold after Easter to parishioners and anyone interested. After some discussion it was decided to have a £100 prize each quarter.

Joe also enquired about having an alcohol licence for selling alcohol at parish events. He has been advised that a Temporary Events Notice can be applied for each event and will be valid for the duration of that event. It may not be profitable but worth a try. Philip asked that an announcement should be made at the end of each event to ask people to take their rubbish home with them.

Lent Talks

Helma reported that about 25 parishioners approx. attended on the 3 evenings that the talks were held. Derek Williams spoke on Contemplative Prayer and offered to return in September if that is acceptable to the parish priest. Helma distributed forms to ask for comments on the 3 talks.

Way of the Cross

Elizabeth has organised this at 7.30pm on Friday nights with a rep from parish groups leading the meditations. Claire has represented the PPC, Elizabeth the SVP and Joe will lead on 15th March.

FINANCE

Fr Karol will attend the next meeting of the F&B committee when a mutual date has been decided.

Eamonn reported that one quote from a professional company to set up a new website is £2,000 with a yearly maintenance charge of £200.

It has been discussed that maybe only the hard standing of the car park would be resurfaced with a quarter to one third of the spaces being

allocated to the disabled. Sandra Portas, from the Diocese, has sent a list of organisations that could be approached for grants. These must be applied for in the name of the Diocese as the charity number is the Diocese's.

Redecorating could be done in 3 phases, church first, annex and then hall.

There is a problem in the office as Magda has not been able to access online banking as Fr Tom was the only one with access to it on his phone. Fr Karol and Magda need access to the online accounts as well as Sinead, the parish treasurer. The DONA machine is not working which may be due to a technical issue or no access to online banking. This means that a number of parishioners cannot give their weekly offerings and this situation needs to be rectified as soon as possible. It may be more advantageous to have a code on each pew which can be scanned.

The plans for a new confessional have been deferred.

Fr Tom's departure.

A collection was taken up after Masses one weekend. Eamonn gave a short tribute at the end of the 11am Mass on February 25th. However, as parishioners were still wishing to contribute at that Mass, the presentation of the cash by Elizabeth was done after Wednesday morning Mass at 10am.

Joe welcomed Fr Karol to the parish and said it was good to have him back.

The situation regarding a permanent appointment has not been resolved yet. However as both St Ives and Huntingdon are sizeable parishes there should not be an amalgamation.

Joe M will write to Bishop Peter.

- confirming we will not be amalgamated:
- Can we work towards a timeframe of having Fr Karol until the middle of June?

Although we have been advised not to have an Open Meeting until a permanent priest is appointed, could we do something in the interim before appointment of a new PP to share the PPC vision and hear parishioners' responses.

REPORTS

Claire was not present but she asked that it be noted that there is a new date for First Confession which is 20th April. First Communions on June 8th.

Confirmation date has been changed to Thursday 11th July by the Bishop.

Any Other Business

Fr Karol spoke on what he planned for the Easter Liturgy. There will a Reconciliation Service at 7pm on 25th March. He wishes to introduce Communion under both kinds on Maundy Thursday at 7.30pm Mass.

At the Vigil Service there will be the lighting of the fire in the garden and blessing of the water. It is hoped to have 2 cantors and an organist. Elizabeth will contact Tony who plays for the funerals and hopefully he will be available for the Easter Vigil. Arthur will organise the altar servers. The Polish custom of Blessing the Food will take place at 2pm to 3pm. The Vigil Service will begin at 9pm.

Confirmation Rite will be held on July 11th and candidates will be obliged to attend the Ignite Festival on 4th and 5th May,

As it is the 40th Anniversary of the beginning of saying Mass in the Bridge Chapel on Mondays, the Bishop will be invited to attend on which ever week suits him.

The meeting closed with prayer.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 15th April at 6.30pm on our parish hall.