

Saint Edmund's Parish – Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2016

Present: Father Vincent, Tricia Davies, Elizabeth Hitchens, Christine Martin, Christine Meyer, Jane Murphy, and Teresa Quinn, (Chair).
Paul Blake (Clerk).

Apologies: John Cooke

The meeting opened with a prayer at 11.15.a.m.

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2016.

There were no matters arising from these minutes.

Introductory remarks from Father Vincent.

Father Vincent asked for information about the 'Terms of Reference' for the Pastoral Council. He requested that present members stay in post, that in time more members should be sought and that a 'rotating membership' as set out in the Terms of Reference should be followed.

Diocesan booklets in connection with 'The Year of Mercy' were circulated and Father Vincent indicated that he would like the Pastoral Council to consider organising something for this Year of Mercy. He suggested that a parish pilgrimage to one of the diocesan 'Doors of Mercy' should be planned for some time in the summer.

Arrangements for the Holy Week liturgies.

Palm Sunday morning: the procession with palms will start in the rear of the car park.

Wednesday: the coach to the Chrism Mass had been booked to leave at 9.00.a.m. This will now be brought forward to 8.45.a.m.

Holy Thursday: The Mass of the Lord's Supper will start with the reception of the Holy Oils. Tricia Davies and Elizabeth Hitchens will draw up a list of parishioners for the 'Washing of the Feet' by asking for volunteers, representing a cross-section of the parish, on the weekend of Palm Sunday, (19th/20th March).

The recommissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will take place at the evening Mass which will start at 7.30.p.m. Watching at the Altar of Repose will start with the singing of some Taizé chants and end at 10.30.p.m. with Night Prayer.

Good Friday: The ecumenical Walk of Witness starts at the Methodist Church at 9.30.a.m. and ends at Saint Edmund's Church. The ecumenical Good Friday joint service takes place at the Methodist Church at 11.00.a.m. There will be Stations of the Cross for children at Saint Edmund's Church at 12 noon. The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord will take place at 3.00.p.m. The 'Showing of the Holy Cross' will be conducted according to the First Form in the Roman Missal with a veiled cross carried from the back of the church to the sanctuary. Confessions will be available after the afternoon service.

Holy Saturday: The Easter Vigil will take place at 8.00.p.m. starting with the 'Blessing of the Fire' and 'The Preparation of the Candle' in the car park. Father Vincent will sing the Exsultet. There will be four Old Testament readings and one New Testament reading. The lights in the church will be switched on after the singing of the Exsultet, and those in the sanctuary at the Gloria. The blessing of the water will take place at the font and water will be left in the uncovered font over the Easter season.

Jane Murphy will organise music by the folk group for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and The Easter Vigil. The folk group and organist will provide the music for Good Friday and the organist for Easter Sunday morning. The psalms at the Easter Vigil will all be sung.

Tricia Davies and Elizabeth Hitchens will draw up a list of parishioners for the washing of the feet.

Teresa Quinn will organise the rotas for readers, welcomers, parishioners for the various processions of the gifts, collection takers for Palm Sunday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil, parishioners to bring up the oils on Holy Thursday, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Teresa Quinn will speak with Andy Stevens about the preparation of the New Fire at the Easter Vigil.

Paul Blake will ensure that sacristan duties are carried out for the various liturgies of Holy Week.

Preparation for First Communion.

Children will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday 27th February at 11.00.a.m.

The report from the Pastoral Council to Father Vincent based upon the 14 areas in 'Called to be a People of Hope'.

It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Other matters.

Father Vincent indicated that the parish should consider some sort of pilgrimage every two years.

It was noted that there was a need for a Sacristan within the parish, and for someone to be trained as an additional Master of Ceremonies for the Altar Servers.

Plans should be made for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation within the parish in the autumn of 2017.

No plans had yet been made for the Induction of Father Vincent as Parish Priest. This was dependent upon a new Dean being appointed. The Induction would be after Easter and should be within three months of a Parish Priest taking up his appointment.

A special liturgy will take place for Divine Mercy Sunday on the afternoon of 3rd April.

A parish penitential service will be organised for Advent.

The need for a social committee was noted; not only to organise fund raising events but to organise parish social events, and reciprocal social event with the Friends of Saint Edmund's School.

Clarification was sought, and given, as to how the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should minister at Mass.

Next meeting:

The next meeting was planned for Thursday 14th April at 7.30.p.m. in the church hall.

The meeting closed at 12.45.p.m. with a prayer.