

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2016

Present: Father Vincent, Tricia Davies, Elizabeth Hitchens, Christine Martin, Teresa Quinn, (Chair), Noreen Berry, (representative from the Parish Pastoral Council of Saint Mary's Parish, Chippenham).
Paul Blake (Clerk).

Apologies: John Cooke, Christine Meyer.
It was reported that Anne Morgan-Jones had stood down from the Pastoral Council, and that Ian and Teresa MacCallum would no longer be serving as the representatives from Saint Mary's Parish, Chippenham.

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7.30.p.m.

Noreen Berry from Saint Mary's Parish, Chippenham was welcomed to the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2016.

These minutes were approved.

The success of the parish pilgrimage to Downside Abbey was noted. It was agreed that some new members of the Parish Pastoral Council were needed, along with a sacristan and an additional MC for Sunday morning Masses

Forthcoming events.

Feast of Saint Edmund: it was agreed that Mass would be celebrated at 7.30.p.m. on Wednesday 16th November followed by refreshments in the church hall.

The end of the Year of Mercy: a Holy Hour will be held from 3.00.p.m. to 4.00.p.m. on Sunday 20th November.

Advent 2016: An open parish meeting will be held on Sunday 27th November, (First Sunday of Advent), to choose a charitable parish project for our Covenant with the Poor. An item would be placed in the newsletter inviting parishioners to come forward with suggestions regarding a suitable project.

It is hoped that a Service of Reconciliation for Advent can be arranged for the afternoon of either Sunday 11th December or Sunday 18th December.

Christmas: Masses will be celebrated at 6.00.p.m. and 10.00.p.m. on Christmas Eve and at 10.00.a.m. on Christmas Day

Confirmations: The Bishop will come to the parish on Thursday 19th October 2017 to celebrate Mass and the Sacrament of Confirmation at 7.00.p.m.

Other events: Father Vincent reported that a Holy Hour will take place each Friday from 7.00.p.m. to 8.00.p.m. The 10.00.a.m. Saturday morning Mass will be reinstated, followed by Confessions.

The Rosary will be prayed prior to morning Mass each Thursday.

A special Mass will be celebrated on Friday 28th October at 7.00.p.m. followed by a presentation on the work of Missio in the church hall.

Update on Bible Study Group / formation of Prayer Group.

It was noted that the meetings of the Bible study group had lapsed at present.

Christine Martin proposed that the Bible study/prayer programme from CaFE 'The Big Picture' be started in January. Information about this course was shared and it is hoped that meetings will be able to take place at the school. The twelve week programme would be split into two six week blocks. The initial costs of the books for participants would be met from parish funds, with requests for donations to meet this cost made later in the programme. Christine Martine agreed to arrange to promote this programme during Advent within the parish, through the school, and at Saint Mary's Parish in Chippenham.

Additional volunteers to write the Prayer of the Faithful.

It was agreed that those present would seek additional volunteers to compose the Prayer of the Faithful for weekend Masses. Further information regarding the format and the Diocesan Prayer Link for parishes are available from Paul Blake.

Consideration of the invitation given in Bishop Declan's recent Pastoral Letter.

Discussions took place regarding Bishop Declan's invitation for parishes to reflect on how we are living the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy contained in his recent Pastoral Letter. It was agreed that future meetings of the Parish Pastoral Council should maintain a focus on looking outwards in terms of 'mission'. A short discussion took place on arrangements for visiting the sick and housebound within the parish.

Items from Calne Partnership of Churches.

Elizabeth Hitchens reported on three recent events: the ecumenical walk, the Taizé service and the recitation of Saint Mark's Gospel.

Items from Saint Mary's Parish, Chippenham.

Noreen Berry reported on work at Saint Mary's Parish in connection with Syrian refugees and Kitty's Café. An Irish choir will be visiting Saint Mary's Parish on Saturday 15th October; Mass will be celebrated at 6.30.p.m. followed by a concert and a reception in the church hall.

The pilgrimage to Downside Abbey was appreciated.

Teresa Quinn requested that Noreen Berry send the best wishes of the Parish Pastoral Council to Ian and Teresa MacCallum.

Other matters.

In answer to a question it was noted that the children's Liturgy of the Word at Sunday morning Mass had not ceased and would recommence shortly.

Next meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held on Thursday, 1st December 2016, at 7.30.p.m. in the church hall.

The meeting closed at 9.15.p.m. with a prayer.