

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2017

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

Apologies: John Cooke, Christine Meyer.

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2016.

These minutes were approved. Teresa Quinn commented upon the success of the celebrations over the Christmas season. It was noted that First Communions would be celebrated on 18th June 2017, that the books had been removed from the rear of the church hall and that the proposed 'Parent and Toddler Group' would not now be taking place.

Sacramental preparation in 2017.

Reconciliation and First Communion:

There are five candidates and First Communions will be celebrated on Sunday 18th June 2017.

Confirmation:

Father Vincent reported that he planned to meet soon with Christine Martin to organise the programme of preparation, but was looking for a male catechist to support the programme. Some possible names were mentioned but it was noted that any volunteer would need to have diocesan safeguarding clearances before taking up such a role. It was agreed that candidates will be invited to write letters to Father Vincent in the next few weeks expressing a desire to be confirmed.

CaFE programme: 'The Big Picture'.

Christine Martin reported upon this adult faith formation course taking place at Saint Edmund's School on Monday evenings at 7.30.p.m. Rates of participation are good: 27 sets of course materials have been distributed. Christine Martin noted that this represented over 10 per cent of the weekend Mass attendance.

Parish charity project.

The parish charity project for the year 'Embrace the Middle East' has been launched, with a display in the church porch. Events to date have raised £ 219.85, and future events are planned. There was some discussion as to whether ways could be found for parishioners who were unable to support special events to contribute to this project. Father Vincent indicated that parish fund raising will be needed in the near future for major repairs to the heating system.

Parish response to Bishop Declan's Pastoral Letter.

A draft parish questionnaire was approved which will be available for parishioners to complete over the next two weekends. The proposed questions relate to the invitation Bishop Declan gave to "imagine what our Diocese might be like in five to ten years' time". It was agreed that the Parish Pastoral Council would meet on Thursday, 2nd March 2017 at 7.30.p.m. to collate the responses, with a view to forwarding a parish response to the Bishop.

Lent and Easter 2017.

It was reported that Stations of the Cross will take place on Fridays in Lent, and a children's Liturgy of the Word will take place each week in Lent at the Sunday morning Masses. There is the possibility that weekly 'Lent Lunches' might be arranged.

It was noted that Bishop Declan is to celebrate Liturgies of Reconciliation during the Season of Lent at Holy Rood Church, Swindon on Thursday, 30th March at 7.00.p.m. and at Saint John's Church, Trowbridge on Thursday, 6th April at 7.00.p.m.

Father Vincent informed the meeting of various events being planned by the Diocesan Youth Service including an evening 'Lenten Reflection' for young people being held here at Saint Edmund's Church on Friday, 7th April from 6.30.p.m. to 8.30.p.m. It was agreed that arrangements would be made to give personal invitations to young parishioners, (aged 10 – 18), for this event.

Elizabeth Hitchens agreed to contact Saint Mary's, Chippenham regarding a shared coach to Clifton Cathedral for the Chrism Mass on Wednesday, 12th April at 11.00.a.m.

Father Vincent noted the need for trained altar servers to assist at the Paschal Triduum.

Items from Calne Partnership of Churches.

Elizabeth Hitchens reported on the success of the events to mark Christian Unity Week held in January. Plans are being made for the display of the banners of the Stations of the Cross within the town and a Good Friday 'Walk of Witness' starting from Saint Edmund's Church and ending at Calne Methodist Church. An information evening on the 'Open the Book' Bible Society initiative for schools will be held on Thursday, 2nd March at Calne Baptist Church.

An additional volunteer to act as another parish representative for the Calne Partnership of Churches will be sought and a note put in the newsletter.

Items from Saint Mary's Parish, Chippenham.

Noreen Berry reported on several items as follows:

Saint Mary's Parish will respond to the Bishops' consultation on the future of the diocese by indicating that the size of the parish is such that a resident priest will be needed.

Just over 60 children and young people are involved in sacramental preparation programmes with First Communion and Confirmations being celebrated in May.

The parish had hosted a visit from Bishop Mar Joseph Srampickal, the recently ordained Bishop of the Syro-Malabar Church in Britain.

Other matters.

Tricia Davies reported that she is about to display material relating to a possible parish pilgrimage in the autumn of 2017 or the spring/summer of 2018.

Teresa Quinn noted that there may be a need for more Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for ministry at the Saturday evening Masses.

Next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meetings of the Parish Pastoral Council would be as follows:

Thursday, 2nd March 2017 at 7.30.p.m. in the church hall.

Thursday, 30th March 2017 at 7.30.p.m. in the church hall.

The meeting closed at 8.50.p.m. with a prayer.