

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2017

Present: Father Vincent, John Cooke, Tricia Davies, Elizabeth Hitchens, Christine Martin, Teresa Quinn, (Chair),
Paul Blake (Clerk).

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 31st August 2017:

These minutes were approved. Christine Martin expressed concern regarding the item discussed at the last meeting concerning the timing of the communion song and period of silence after communion. She explained that many other instructions in the document 'Celebrating the Mass' published by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales were not adhered to and that it was difficult for a solo instrumental musician to choose music that all could sing without hymn books as they processed to receive Holy Communion.

"A Future Full of Hope":

Father Vincent, Elizabeth Hitchens, Christine Martin, and Paul Blake attended the diocesan study day on 28th October. Father Vincent distributed copies of the diocesan document "A Future Full of Hope". A resource document for the Year of Mission (2017 – 2018) will be distributed at Evening Prayer at Clifton Cathedral on 29th November, to which all parishioners are invited. After discussion it was agreed that ways in which the parish might respond to this initiative would be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Saint Edmund's feast day:

It was agreed that an evening Mass would be celebrated at 7.00.p.m. on Thursday 16th November followed by light refreshments in the church hall.

World day of the Poor:

It was noted that Pope Francis had established a new celebration in the Catholic calendar, the "World Day of the Poor", to be celebrated this year on Sunday 19th November. It was agreed that this would be marked by encouraging all to contribute to the Food Bank at Masses on 18th and 19th November. There will be an item in the next newsletter and a special table set up in the porch to receive donations.

Parish Pilgrimage:

To date only 9 or 10 parishioners have expressed a wish to attend this pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in April 2018. It is hoped that the final numbers will reach 15 to 20. An invitation will be extended to other parishes within the deanery to take part.

Parish Project:

It was agreed that a parish meeting will be held after the morning Mass on Sunday 3rd December, the First Sunday of Advent, to enable parishioners to put forward suggestions for a charity to be supported through a new Parish Project.

Advent and Christmas 2017:

Arrangements for Masses at Christmas were confirmed as follows: Christmas Eve: 6.00.p.m. Family Mass; 10.00.p.m. Mass of Christmas Night; Christmas Day: 10.00.a.m. Morning Mass.

It was noted that no mention of the Christmas services at Saint Edmund's had been published in the Calne Town Guide. Representations will be made to the Town Council regarding this omission.

A children's Liturgy of the Word will be held each Sunday during Advent.

Items from Calne Partnership of Churches:

Elizabeth Hitchens reported on an Advent Service to be held at Saint Martin's, Bremhill on Sunday 3rd December at 6.00.p.m. and on the success of the 'Open the Book' assemblies being held at three local schools. A folder giving details of all Christian places of worship within the town has been produced and will be made available in churches, the Town Hall, estate agents and the library.

Other items:

John Cooke reported that the preparation programme for First Holy Communion would start in January. Additional volunteer catechists were needed.

Advent cream teas and musical entertainments are being planned for weekends during advent. It is planned that a parish self-help project to redecorate the church hall will be organised for Lent 2018.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 11th January 2018 at 7.30.p.m. in the church hall.

The meeting closed at 9.00.p.m. with a prayer.