

## **Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

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**Present:** Father Vincent, Tricia Davies, Elizabeth Hitchens, Kathleen Joyce, Christine Martin, Anne Morgan-Jones, Helen Murphy, Teresa Quinn.  
Paul Blake (Clerk).

Apologies: Helena Dunne.

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

#### **Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019:**

These minutes were approved. There were no matters arising.

#### **Election of Chairperson:**

With no members present at the meeting indicating a willingness to take on the role it was agreed that the role of Chairperson be filled on a rotating basis, with each member in turn assuming the role of Chairperson for each particular meeting. Father Vincent agreed to Chair this meeting.

#### **Update on Parish Project:**

Proceeds from the raffle of unwanted Christmas presents, a sum of £243, had been sent to the Parish Project charity 'Mary's Meals'. Future fund raising events included the 'Lenten Challenge' and the proceeds from the Lent Hunger Lunches. The need for some sort of social committee to organise fund raising events for the Parish Project was discussed and it was agreed that this would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

#### **First Communion Preparation 2019:**

It was noted that the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place on Saturday 23rd March at 11.00.a.m. and the celebration of First Communions on Sunday 26th May at 11.00.a.m. Some 11 or 12 children are taking part in the programme of preparation.

#### **Lent 2019:**

The CaFE course 'The Joy of Hope' will be held on the following Thursday evenings in the church hall from 7.30.p.m. to 9.00.p.m. – 14th March, 21st March, 28th March and 4th April. The ecumenical course 'Five to Midnight – Action for Hope' will be held on the following Monday evenings at 7.30.p.m. at various locations – 11th March, 18th March, 25th March, 1st April and 8th April. The meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March takes place at Saint Edmund's Church. The Parish Pastoral Council of Saint Anthony's, Melksham had suggested that joint prayer services on two Sunday afternoons take place in each parish, as took place in Advent. Saint Anthony's Parish will host a service on Sunday 17th March and had invited Saint Edmund's Parish to host a service on Sunday 24th March. It was agreed that Saint Edmund's would celebrate Evening Prayer and Benediction on 24<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30.p.m. followed by refreshments in the church hall. Paul Blake offered to organise the Evening Prayer and Teresa Quinn offered to organise the refreshments.

Lent Lunches will take place on Fridays in Lent. Teresa Quinn will organise this on 8<sup>th</sup> March, Elizabeth Hitchens on 15<sup>th</sup> March, Anne Morgan-Jones on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and Kathleen Joyce on 12<sup>th</sup> April. Additional volunteers will be sought for 29<sup>th</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Deanery and Parish structures:**

Following Bishop Declan's request to priests to consider possible deanery and parish structures in the future with fewer diocesan priests, Father Vincent announced that an open meeting for all parishioners in the deanery will be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June from 10.30.a.m. to 3.00.p.m. at Saint John's Parish, Trowbridge to be chaired by Sarah Adams the new Diocesan Director of Adult Education. A general discussion took place with concerns expressed about the way in which the consultation process was being managed and the apparent lack of reference to the results of the diocesan responses to Bishop Declan's invitation of 1st January 2017 to "*imagine what our diocese will be like in five to ten years' time*". It was agreed that Christine Martin would contact Sarah Adams at the diocese to try to ascertain the format of the open meeting. This matter will be discussed further at the next joint meeting with the Pastoral Council of Saint Anthony's, Melksham on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

### **Children's Liturgy of the Word:**

Teresa Quinn explained that there were now only two regular volunteers to lead the Children's Liturgy of the Word, and that fewer children were attending. A general discussion took place and matters covered included: the recruitment of new volunteer leaders, the need for diocesan safeguarding clearance for volunteers, and the possibility of asking the diocese to run a training course for new volunteer leaders. Members were asked to consider why fewer children were attending and why it was difficult to recruit additional leaders. Discussion also took place on the merits or otherwise of discontinuing the Children's Liturgy of the Word with a view to a possible re-launch in the future. Teresa Quinn agreed to continue with the organisation of the Children's Liturgy of the Word until Easter, but no decisions were made at the meeting as to the way forward.

### **Any other business:**

A parishioner had requested that copies of the diocesan prayer for vocations to the priesthood used at the end of Mass be made available. Father Vincent explained that copies had been placed in the porch and he believed that one was still available.

Elizabeth Hitchens spoke of the 'Mothers' Prayers' group she had attended at Saint Anthony's Parish in Melksham. She explained that she intended to start such a group in her own home.

Tricia Davies noted difficulties in clearly hearing some readers at the Saturday evening Mass, and suggested that a note could be placed on the next readers' rota requesting that readers check the alignment of the microphone.

It was noted that the ecumenical Walk of Witness takes place on Good Friday starting from Saint Edmund's Church, and that the Easter Vigil will commence at 8.30.p.m.

### **Date of next meetings:**

Joint meeting with Melksham: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 at 7.30.p.m. at Melksham.

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 at 7.30.p.m. with Tricia Davies as the Chairperson.

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