

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

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020**

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**Present:** Father Vincent, Tricia Davies, Elizabeth Hitchens, Tony Matthews, Rob Pickford, Teresa Quinn, Derek Quinn, Maria Teale.  
Paul Blake (Clerk).

Apologies: Kathleen Joyce, Christine Martin, Helen Murphy

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7.30.p.m. with Tony Matthews taking the Chair.

#### **Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019**

These minutes were approved. Tricia Davies reported that a Curry and Quiz Night is being planned at the school jointly with the Friends of Saint Edmund's (FOSE). A possible date is 28<sup>th</sup> February with an earlier start at 6.00.p.m. so that parents and children can attend. Funds raised would be split between the parish and FOSE. The membership levels of the 100 Club are now such that prize money can be maintained at last year's levels.

#### **Sacramental preparation:**

**Baptisms:** Father Vincent reported that there are now three catechists and that candidates with parents attend for three sessions prior to Baptism. There is one candidate taking part in the programme at present.

**First Communions:** This year's programme of preparation has started with sessions for parents and children meeting each Sunday before the 11.00.a.m. Mass.

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

The parish project for this year is 'Tree Aid'. Teresa Quinn gave details of this charity and Elizabeth Hitchens agreed to help with the raffle for the project which is due to take place after the 11.00.a.m. Mass on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Future fund-raising events for the project were discussed. Teresa Quinn will ask John Cooke if he would be prepared to organise the Lenten Challenge again this year during Lent, and Albert Pace may organise a parish barbecue later in the year. Rob Pickford reported that a Barn Dance would be held at Cherhill in June, (possibly on 19<sup>th</sup> June), and it was hoped that funds raised would be split between the church and the school. Father Vincent stated that he would prefer for funds raised to be split between the parish and the Parish Project.

#### **Parish pilgrimage:**

A Parish Pilgrimage to Kraków is being organised for four nights next year, (21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020), this will be a joint pilgrimage with Saint Anthony's Melksham. Maria Teale offered to produce a handout leaflet to advertise this pilgrimage and Tricia Davies offered to investigate the possibility of a representative from Aglow, the organising company, coming to talk to parishioners about the pilgrimage.

#### **Update from the first meeting of the deanery 'Wisdom Group':**

Father Vincent and Paul Blake attended the first meeting of the 'Wisdom Group' set up to look at possible future parish structures within the deanery in the light of fewer priests. The group plans to hold monthly meetings, visiting each parish in the deanery in turn over the next nine months. Both Father Vincent and Paul Blake expressed disappointment that the group was reluctant to move onto discussing any concrete proposals and were concerned that the outcomes from the two open deanery meetings held last June and September were not being addressed. A lengthy discussion followed, and Maria Teale volunteered to serve on this group.

**Items from Calne Partnership of Churches:**

Elizabeth Hitchens reported that the Calne Partnership of Churches had decided at its last meeting not to hold the Good Friday Walk of Witness this year. There will be a joint service at the Baptist Church on Good Friday at 10.00.a.m. and cold Hot Cross Buns will be distributed in the town centre. A general discussion followed with concern expressed that a Good Friday walk would not take place. It was proposed that for 2021 a joint walk with Catholics and members of the Anglican Church could be organised in the town centre in the morning of Good Friday with a large wooden cross then being taken by volunteer walkers along the A4 to Cherhill so that the Parish Church of Saint James at Cherhill could continue the witness by their usual Good Friday afternoon walk from Cherhill to the White Horse.

**Items from Father Vincent:**

Father Vincent distributed the diocesan 'Year of Communion' booklets and explained that Bishop Declan was keen that they should be used.

Father Vincent had received a request from Saint Anthony's, Melksham that the date of the next joint Parish Pastoral Council meeting be changed to 12<sup>th</sup> March. This was agreed.

**Any other business:**

It was agreed that Father Vincent's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday would be celebrated after Mass on 2<sup>nd</sup> February in the church hall.

Tony Matthews thanked Paul Blake for his work in preparing the agendas and the minutes of the meetings.

**Date of next meeting:**

A joint meeting with the Parish Pastoral Council of Saint Anthony's, Melksham is scheduled to take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.30.p.m. at Saint Anthony's, Melksham.

The next meeting of the Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council is scheduled to take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 with Helen Murphy taking the Chair.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 8.45.p.m.