

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting held on 8th October 2020

Present: Father Vincent, Tricia Davies, Elizabeth Hitchens, Kathleen Joyce, Christine Martin, Helen Murphy, Albert Pace, Martin Hinnigan.
Paul Blake (Clerk).

Apologies: Tony Matthews

The meeting opened at 7.00.p.m. with Father Vincent taking the Chair, thanking all for their attendance and explaining that this was the second such meeting being held to review the arrangements for the re-opening of the church for public worship.

After discussion, and reference to the various guidelines, the following items were noted and agreed:

The booking system for Masses is generally going well, although some people sometimes book and then fail to attend. No one has had to be turned away due to insufficient space. Generally people maintain social distancing when leaving Mass but sometimes there is congestion in the porch area and some people are reluctant to use the rear exit door. It would be desirable if Father Vincent sometimes reminded the congregation at the end of Mass to maintain social distancing when leaving.

Advice is expected from the diocese regarding church heating and maintaining ventilation in the church as winter approaches. It was noted that it is a condition of opening places of worship that adequate ventilation is maintained.

Confessions are available 'at call', and Father Vincent will bless water for personal use as Holy Water.

Solo singing without a face covering is permitted from the ambo on the sanctuary. It was agreed that this would be desirable during the distribution of Holy Communion. Likewise organ music is permitted.

The annual parish financial statements are displayed each year on the church notice board in the porch. Donations have been received toward the presbytery heating.

The 'Mothers' Prayers' group can meet in the church providing social distancing is in place and the church is cleaned after use.

The Hall can be used as a polling station for the local elections in May 2021.

Normal regular meetings of the Pastoral Council should recommence. It would be good to discuss pastoral activities, especially our care of the vulnerable. It was suggested that Teresa Quinn and Brigid Rodgers should be invited to join the Pastoral Council.

The meeting ended with a prayer at 7.45.p.m.