

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting held on 25th March 2021.

Present: Father Vincent, Tricia Davies, Elizabeth Hitchens, Kathleen Joyce, Christine Martin, Tony Matthews, Teresa Quinn, Rob Pickford, Brigid Rodgers.
Paul Blake (Clerk).

Apologies: Helen Murphy, Albert Pace.

This was an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council held to review the work of the parish in the present circumstances within the Covid-19 pandemic and to ensure that preparations are made for the Holy Week and Easter services

The meeting opened at 4.30.p.m. with Father Vincent leading a prayer.

No-one volunteered to chair the meeting, so a general discussion was held.

Arrangements for the Holy Week and Easter services were discussed with reference to the guidance published by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Teresa Quinn reported that a rota was in place for stewards, readers, and cleaners for all the services. Father Vincent reported that only the Deans would attend the Chrism Mass and that oils would be delivered to Melksham parish for him to collect. He informed the meeting that Father Malcolm Ferrier, a retired priest from Warminster, would celebrate the Easter Vigil at Saint Edmund's. Tony Matthews agreed to contact Father Malcolm to discuss arrangements and to see if he requires altar servers.

Discussion took place regarding the fact that the weekly newsletter no longer includes the Redemptorist Mass leaflet with the readings. Father Vincent explained that it cost £6 a week to download a copy and he believed this was too expensive. Some present expressed the view that the Redemptorist Mass leaflet should be available for those who find it difficult to hear the reader and those who may wish to take a copy of the readings home. Father Vincent said that he had no plans to re-introduce them.

Father Vincent agreed that if the scheduled Thursday morning Mass has to be cancelled, (perhaps due to a funeral), then Mass, open to the public, could be celebrated on another weekday providing that stewards and cleaners were available.

The re-opening of the hall for use was discussed. It was agreed that a first step would be the submission of a risk assessment to the diocese for approval. Father Vincent will ask Martin Hinnigan, the parish Health and Safety Representative, to arrange this.

It was noted that the Finance Committee had not met recently. Father Vincent stated that he hoped a meeting would take place after Easter. He informed the meeting that there was approximately £14,000 in the parish accounts. Tricia Davies informed the meeting that she would not be re-starting the 100 club and that a volunteer was needed to run this in the future.

A discussion took place about the postponed celebration of First Communions from last year. Father Vincent agreed that these could go ahead. It was suggested that to avoid large numbers perhaps two children a week, over successive Sundays could be invited to celebrate their First Communion. Rob Pickford agreed to contact Frances and Neil Towers, the catechists for the programme, and further discussions would take place at the next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 29th April 2021 at 7.00.p.m.

The meeting ended at 5.30.p.m. with a closing prayer.