

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

## **Minutes of a meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021.**

---

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

Apologies: Helen Murphy, Albert Pace, Martin Hinnigan

The meeting opened with a prayer.

### **Election of Chairperson:**

Teresa Quinn accepted a nomination to serve as Chairperson. Brigid Rodgers indicated that she would be prepared to Chair meetings if required.

### **Minutes of meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021:**

These minutes were approved.

### **Redemptorist Red Mass Leaflets:**

Father Vincent reported that the Redemptorist Red Mass leaflets would be available from the coming weekend. The 'Look' children's sheets had not been ordered but will be if thought to be needed in the future. Since the newsletter will be printed on a separate sheet, parishioners will need to be reminded to take both sheets home after Masses. Even though three individuals had offered to finance the weekly supply of the Redemptorist leaflets it was agreed that they are a legitimate parish expense and should be paid for from general parish funds. Those who had offered to finance the leaflets would be informed of this, thanked for their offers, and told that they could still make donations to general parish funds if they so wished.

### **First Communions:**

The postponed celebration of First Communions from last year will take place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Frances and Neil Towers, the catechists for the programme, had been holding Zoom meetings with the candidates and their families. Christine Martin explained that since additional people would be attending Mass on 6<sup>th</sup> June different seating arrangements may need to be put in place and those who have a regular booking for Sunday Mass may need to be encouraged to attend the Saturday evening Mass or be prepared to re-book for the Sunday Mass and be allocated a different seat. A note will be put in the newsletter and on the parish website in connection with this.

### **Preparation for Baptism:**

A request had been received for the baptism of an infant. The parents had already undertaken a preparation course. Father Vincent explained that baptisms could take place at present, but numbers were restricted to six people.

### **Use of the church hall:**

The re-opening of the hall for use was discussed. A risk assessment had been submitted to the diocese and we are awaiting approval. It was agreed that some benches from the church, presently stored in the hall, would be returned to church by 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to increase the seating capacity. It is likely that the hall will not become available for use until after 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 if national Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, however refreshments after Sunday Mass could be provided in the garden from 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

### **Steps to re-build and re-energise the parish:**

A wide-ranging discussion took place on steps that the Parish Pastoral Council could take to re-build and re-energise the parish as the national Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. Reference was made to the letter from the Bishops of England and Wales which will be read at Masses this coming weekend. Identified steps were as follows:

- Providing refreshments in the presbytery garden for up to 30 people after Sunday Masses, starting from 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021, Pentecost Sunday. Teresa Quinn to compile a rota.
- A parish social event in the presbytery garden after a Sunday Mass in the summer months, sometime after 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021, with perhaps an invitation extended to parishioners from Saint Anthony's, Melksham
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion restarting visits to the elderly and housebound. Father Vincent reported that this is underway already. It was suggested that a note could be put in the newsletter inviting parishioners to let Father Vincent know if there are any housebound parishioners who would welcome a visit.
- The possibility of running a CaFE course on Celtic Spirituality in the Autumn
- The Mothers' Prayers group to resume weekly meetings from this coming Tuesday.
- Once 'relative normality' returns, hopefully after 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 if national Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, consideration to be given to using the parish census information to write to parishioners extending an invitation to them to return to Masses. Such invitations could also be passed on through the school.

### **Any other business:**

The need, or otherwise, for cleaning the church after Masses on Thursday and Sundays was discussed. Father Vincent will seek clarification from the diocese.

The way stewards assist those who use wheelchairs at the distribution of Communion at Masses was briefly discussed. Teresa Quinn agreed to speak to stewards about this.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7.00.p.m.** in the presbytery garden.

The meeting ended at 8.00.p.m. with a closing prayer.