

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council

Draft minutes of a meeting held on 8th July 2021.

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

Apologies: Helen Murphy, Rob Pickford.

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7.00.p.m.

Minutes of meeting held on 10th June 2021:

These minutes were approved.

It was noted that refreshments after Sunday Mass were now being served and that no one had come forward to answer the newsletter appeal for volunteers for various roles in the parish.

It was agreed that an appeal for volunteers would be made at the end of Masses this coming weekend with Brigid Rodgers speaking on Saturday evening and Elizabeth Hitchens on Sunday morning.

Kathleen Joyce suggested that the families of children who celebrated their First Communion and their catechists should be invited to a special Sunday Mass to bring them together and to thank them. Father Vincent reported that the Bishop is suggesting a weekend in October/November to encourage all back to Mass. It was agreed to delay a decision on this matter.

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

A 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 on 19th July, but guidance from the Diocese is still awaited.

It was agreed that more volunteers are needed for various roles including cleaning brassware, the laundry of altar cloths, and presbytery cleaning. Teresa Quinn will email those who were on the previous rotas. The need to book places for Masses and to record attendance will cease from 19th July. Welcomers should not hand out newsletters or hymn books but should ensure that there is adequate ventilation in the church. Jane Murphy will organise music for the Sunday Mass on 25th July and a music rota from September.

An item about the new arrangements including guidance regarding face coverings and social distancing will need to be placed in the newsletter for the weekend of 17th/18th July.

The church porch will be reorganised after Sunday Mass on 18th July.

Father Vincent will meet with Teresa Quinn and Paul Blake to discuss how best to contact parishioners in September, encouraging them to return to Mass.

Plans for meeting to be held on 15th July 2021:

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on 15th July 2021 with Louise Brown the Headteacher of Saint Edmund's Primary School. This meeting will provide an opportunity for the Parish Pastoral Council to speak with the Headteacher about parish priorities and for the Headteacher to speak with the Parish Pastoral Council about parish/school links.

Various priorities were mentioned including 'getting back to normal' and encouraging Mass attendance, particularly by families and children, strengthening the evangelising mission of the parish especially by recognising the key role the school plays in this mission, hosting social events to build community, focusing on links with families through sacramental preparation and the need for continued contact after the initial celebration of the sacraments.

The importance of faith schools was noted, along with a strong desire to foster and support parish/school links.

Any other business:

Elizabeth Hitchens reported that at a recent Zoom meeting of Calne Partnership of Churches it was noted that Marden Vale Academy and Salisbury Diocese are planning development of the school grounds and hope to involve other faith communities.

'Open The Book' assemblies continue at Marden Vale Academy, and these are also received via Zoom at Holy Trinity School and Saint Edmund's School.

It was agreed that a shared lunch will take place in the presbytery garden after the Sunday morning Mass on 22nd August 2021.

An extraordinary meeting will be held **Thursday 15th July 2021 at 7.00.p.m.** in the presbytery garden to meet with Louise Brown the Headteacher of Saint Edmund's School.

The next ordinary meeting will be held on **Thursday 2nd September 2021 at 7.30.p.m.** in the church hall.

The meeting ended at 8.10.p.m. with a closing prayer.