

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting-Wednesday 8th February 2017

Meeting called to order by chair Ft Robert Murphy at 6:35pm.

Members present:

Chair Father Robert Murphy

Secretary Ria Crowley

David Harrison

Maureen Harrison

Maureen Byrne

Sue Kennedy

Julie Bennett

Ian Cooper

Sr. Sebastian

Carol Crowley

Apologies:

Elisha Gough

Teresa Cullen

Agenda: To discuss significant groups within the parish that are associated with the Parish Pastoral Council.

Father Robert will chair the Council meetings for the next 12 months and Ria Crowley will be secretary - effective from the start of this meeting.

Discussion was held about the groups that are directly associated with the Council. These are:

Social committee: Maureen Prothero, Teresa Cullen and Carol Crowley. These have been meeting monthly.

Finance Committee: Father Robert, Sue Simkiss, Sue Parker and June O'Neil. These meetings are held quarterly. Finance approves any spending. Discussion was held about retreat possibilities for the parish (speakers/Redemptorist visiting) and that these would need approval by the finance committee.

Choir: Currently has 13 members and is led by Carol Crowley. Discussion was held in regard to ways that the choir could enhance pastoral well being of the parish through the delivery of music. The choir will look for ways to benefit the liturgy by enhancing the singing in the church. Possibilities discussed included singing parts of the Mass monthly to begin with. Suggestions by Father Robert were made that sung parts of the Mass could be the Holy Holy, Lamb of God, Gloria, Creed, Mystery of Faith, Great Amen and possibly the Our Father. The choir will need to lead these sung parts in order for members of the Parish to learn them and in turn not feel excluded from these parts of the liturgy. Father Robert is going to contact Derek Tranter and ask for the music for the Gloria if he's happy to share.

Discussion was held about whether a Latin Mass could be said monthly. This was decided by the majority of committee members as not being appropriate as it would result in parishioners feeling excluded.

Choir will look at times of practise and ensure that there are sufficient practises (at least 2) before Easter. The next choir practise will be held on the 25th February 2017. Carol is to trial run the Our Father being sung. Sheets will need to be printed and distributed so parishioners can join in.

Benediction and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Maureen Byrne enquired about Benediction. This will ideally take place once a month following Exposition on a Saturday Morning after Mass. Exposition will be from 12pm till 12:30pm and Benediction will follow.

Stations of the Cross:

Maureen Byrne said that having Stations of the Cross in church later in the day hasn't been successful in reaching a large number of people. This lent it will be trialled on a Tuesday morning following 10am Mass. Maureen is happy to lead the stations; a microphone will need to be provided. Other suggestions of John Stringer, Betty Doughty and Teresa Cullen were made. These could be approached to see if they are willing to lead a walk of the stations.

Ria informed the Council meeting that on Wednesday 29th March at 1:30pm, all of the Walsall Catholic Schools will be attending St Peter's Church for a Stations of the Cross Service.

Open door/Outreach:

A day has been held recently focussing on the importance of conversation for those who are lonely. This has been driven by the NHS trust and Mental Health. It was felt through discussion that as a church we need to provide more opportunities for those in our local area who feel isolated or alone. More volunteers were required for these meetings in order to facilitate the conversations that needed to be taking place. Ideally 2 to serve tea, coffee and food and another 2 required to hold conversations. Open door happens once a month at present on the first Monday of the month. It will possibly expand to 2 meetings a month provided more volunteers commit. The meeting will be held from 11am till 1pm. More substantial food will need to be provided such as light sandwiches or tea and toast. There are enough volunteers for March and Maureen and David Harrison have offered their services if available, along with Carol Crowley. Ria will ask St Peter's school if a link could be put on their school newsletter to reach out to parents. George will need to be asked to add details to the Church Website. Carol mentioned the possibility of it being put in the 'What's on' guide that is free for all homes. Father mentioned that Social Services could also be contacted to inform them of the open door events that take place.

Parent and Toddler Group:

This is now established on a Friday morning in the Parish Hall. It runs for 2 hours from 10am. Parents pay £1 to attend. During the course of the year it is hoped that we will be able to invite them to be involved in things in Church. It was also discussed about the possibility of a display board that they could display the children's work or creations on. This could be a seasonal wall display to be refreshed quarterly in the entrance area to the hall. School may also be able to contribute to this area.

Any other business:

Carol informed the committee that she and Maureen Prothero would like to take a 12 month break from the social committee. They feel that at present it is not well supported and as such would like 12 months to generate some new ideas for evenings and entertainment that the Parish could enjoy in 2018.

David has also asked that Mass times are published of not only our Masses but any other Masses of interest locally. George currently has access to the codes to update the website and will be approached to include these on the website.

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Father explained the current situation with the boiler. It was switched on 6th February and is more economical than the old one. It's looking set to cost the Church in the region of £12000 for its installation. Money will now need to be raised to spend a significant amount of money on refreshing the paint work in Church as a result of the severe cold. Father will share with the Pastoral Council the expenditure over the last 12 months in due course.

Carol Crowley has suggested a fund raising raffle to take place for the Parish. Father thought good quality prizes will be needed to entice people to pay for the tickets. Carol and Maureen Prothero will sort the raffle and prizes. These will be raffle booklets as opposed to raffle tickets. Possible prize suggestions were: hampers, spa days etc.

Another possible fundraising event could be a concert held jointly with the parish choir, school choir, liturgy group and dance group. Tickets could be sold and refreshments provided. These could be held in the early summer and then again towards Christmas.

Sister asked that any upcoming events are repeatedly put on newsletters so that parishioners have time to prepare for events that are forthcoming.

Meeting was closed by 7:55pm.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 5th April at 6:30pm.

Agenda: to discuss possible Parish events/fundraising/ideas