

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 05 JUNE 2003

### Present:

Father Michael	Chairperson	Frances Graham	Prayer Group
Jeni Burridge	Music Group	Tm Hannifin	S.V.P.
Michael Burridge	Parishioner	Arthur Jones	Confirmation
Nehemiah Condono	Legion of Mary	Elizabeth Relf	Administration
Ben Docherty	Altar Server	Paul Relf	Sacristan
David Docherty	Collection counter	Sheila Smith	Council of Churches
Sue Docherty	Reader	Clare Chiles	Minutes

The meeting began at 7.03 pm with a prayer.

### APOLOGIES:

There were apologies from Bridie O'Brien who is away on holiday.

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the last meeting.

Liz Relf, who has not been able to attend recent council meetings referred back to the first Parish Council meeting in which she raised the possibility of a Parish Mission.

Liz. also mentioned that she thought the minutes should be circulated shortly after the meeting, but Father noted that because of the gap between meetings, members tend to lose their copies and forget the content, so they would be distributed before the meetings as was currently being done.

### MATTERS ARISING:

Father Michael invited comments from those present.

Sheila said that the Morriston Council of Churches was doing absolutely nothing at present. There is a prayer meeting held on the last Saturday of each month. Jeni asked if this could be mentioned in the newsletter but Father replied that space was limited though he was looking into finding a suitable larger bulletin. Mike commented on the lack of Walk of Witness this year and Sheila replied it was a lack of communication as the officials had not informed the Police. The Walk would take place next year

Paul said that readers and Eucharistic ministers were still failing to turn up according to the schedule. Father admitted that there had been a gremlin in the schedule and this had caused gaps at the Sunday Masses. Paul referred again to the Ministry Fayre that he had attended in Florida and suggested we set one up here to recruit more members for all ministries. June 22<sup>nd</sup> is a possible date for this event and weather permitting, tables will be set up outside Church after Mass. Many of the readers are getting older or are disabled and find the pulpit steps difficult. Father said that he has no objection to people reading from the lower lectern.

Paul also asked for a monthly Bible Study class to focus on the forthcoming readings as he felt that the profile of scripture should be raised. Father has agreed that he will put on a monthly session. It was mentioned that Sister Eugenie has helped set up other groups and Father asked Paul if he would be willing to take this on.

Paul also mentioned the possibility of expanding the Divine Office in Church, for example night prayer. Father agreed to try Sundays, once the Church became quiet after the 6.30 pm Mass. Morning or Evening Prayer is already being combined with weekday Masses.

Tim commented that the SVP had made over 300 visits this past year. Communion had also been taken to the Hospital and Nursing Homes. People had been transported to Church and furniture had been distributed. The Stroke Club has been running for 18 years. Thanks were paid to the ladies of the parish who contribute towards its smooth running. The annual sponsored S.V.P. walk will take place in September.

Arthur commented that the Confirmation Group had raised £502 but was saddened that only 11 members out of the 18 had raised money, which meant that 7 members had not made any effort or commitment. Irene O'Brien had raised £92. A sponsored walk was being planned and a half day retreat in the Church and a day retreat to Porthcawl. Since Confirmation was being held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September, meetings would take place during the Summer holidays.

Frances said that the prayer group still meets on a Tuesday and that despite numbers being small, prayers were being answered. She had recently attended a Zion retreat and meeting. It was questioned whether the name "Charismatic" put people off. There will be Charismatic Conference during August at Carmarthen.

David commented that the new machinery certainly helped with the collection counting and Father commented that they should certainly reduce the time to count the collection. Most groups were now down to 2 people and Father commented that it was difficult to recruit more people to count and perhaps, it should be included in the Ministry Fayre

Michael said that only one person from 8.45 am Mass had approached Father after the recent request for more servers. Father has ordered tickets for the servers to attend the Diocesan trip to Oakwood.

Nehemiah said that the Legion of Mary was now meeting in private homes on Monday nights. There are only 4 members but they are very active and focussing mainly on the hospital.

Jeni commented that the McCready's presence was missed over Easter. She questioned the timing of arrival of the thurible for the Gospel. Father replied that her concern was noted.

Sue, formerly of the Family Ministry, enquired if anyone else had taken it on board. Father replied that Carol Killa and Heather Harris had attended the meetings but as yet, seemed to lack the confidence to bring it into the Parish.

There has been a poor response to the Diocesan trip to Oakwood and many felt that since there was no longer a central prayer meeting, it had lost its objective. It was no longer a Diocesan Community gathering any more and, as such, numbers to attend had gone down.

The Over 50s are running a trip to Aberystwyth on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July and there is room on the bus. A Parish trip was suggested since several members had enjoyed past trips. Sue will canvass Parishioners about the possibility of running a trip on the last week of term. Caldey Island was a possible venue.

Liz commented that the books had balanced and the parish audit had been successful.

### **FUTURE EVENTS:**

CaFE starts on 12<sup>th</sup> June in the Church back room.

The Feast of the Sacred Heart is on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June and Father will be celebrating Mass for the Morriston pupils at St Joseph's school. Greenhill. Father asked if music could be provided for the evening Mass, after which there might be a social gathering in the back room.

There will be a second collection in aid of the Apostleship of the Sea on Sea Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

Canon Laurence Pelosi will be celebrating Mass during the Summer while Father is away, except for the last Sunday when there will be an appeal by the White Fathers again resulting in a second collection.

It is hoped that Brian Griffiths will deliver an appeal to the parishioners on a Sunday in the near future in order to raise their awareness of the Offertory collections.

The Ordination of Eric Wastell takes place at the Cathedral on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

The Annual Diocesan retreat for Priests takes place at Merville, France from Monday 22nd September to Friday 27th September

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Permission has been given by the Diocesan Trustees for work to commence on the Sacred Heart Hall. It is now out to tender and the figure will be submitted to the Diocese. Father outlined the plans for the kitchen and the toilets which will include a toilet for the disabled.

It was mentioned that the organ at the Centre is valued at £320,000 and it costs £3000 to insure. The Curial Office had suggested that perhaps this should not be paid.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00 pm.

Father Michael thanked all who attended and the meeting ended at 8.28 pm with a closing prayer.