

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 09 JAN 2003

### Present:

Father Michael	Chairperson	Malachi Houlihan	Parishioner
Jeni Burridge	Music Group	Arthur Jones	Confirmation
Michael Burridge	Parishioner	Bridie O'Brien	Over 50's
Nehemiah Condono	Legion of Mary	Paul Relf	Sacristan
Frances Graham	Prayer Group	Sheila Smith	Council of Churches
Tim Hannifin	SVP	Clare Chiles	Minutes

The meeting began at 7.06pm with a prayer.

### APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the last meeting, with apologies to Jeni Burridge for omitting her from the present members attending.

### MATTERS ARISING:

Father Michael invited comments from those present.

Bridie commented that several people had made enquiries about the bonus ball and could the winner be given more attention in the bulletin in order to generate more interest to attract more members. Fr. M. has agreed to put the winner in the bulletin the following week.

Michael Burridge stated that the Altar Servers were static at present - none were leaving but it could be a worry in the future.

Jeni Burridge said that the music at Advent had been very consistent and that the booklet for all Masses was a success. Fr.M. commented that it had made a big difference to the first Mass and evening Mass and thanks to Philippa "whipping" the congregation into shape, everyone knew the music by the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. It was suggested that perhaps something could be done for Easter.

The Advent carol service was very enjoyable but low on attendance. Possibly because of the early start?

Frances Graham commented that numbers for prayer group are low but the group was going well. She queried with Fr. M. that she was not on the current schedule for reading.

Jeni asked if any coaching would be available for readers, especially the younger readers who might be a tad bashful at a group session and perhaps they could have individual coaching. Fr. M. replied that there would be a half day of training for readers and a day of recollection for Eucharistic Ministers in readiness for Easter.

Arthur Jones said that the new Confirmation Group was going well. They were a very active group, full of chatterboxes, which should prove to make it an interesting and enjoyable year. Fr. M. commented that there may be some latecomers to the group

and they could be included in the next 4-6 weeks. Some travellers had expressed interest and they may well join at a later date. It was noted that the travellers at the Confirmation Mass often proved noisy and disruptive.

Fr. M. commented that the Baptism catechists were now trained but that they had not taken any sessions yet.

The catechists for Confession have received one training session and are due to have another session later this month.

The First Communion catechists will have their training during Lent.

There was no representative from the Youth as all members were at a dress rehearsal for their production this weekend.

Sheila Smith informed the meeting that the joint Council of Churches meeting would take place on Tuesday January 21<sup>st</sup> at Morrision Hospital Chapel and Fr. M. hoped that there would be a good number attending from Sacred Heart Parish. Also, there would be a joint service at Aenon Chapel on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 11am.

Tim Hannifin commented that the SVP sponsored walk had proved very successful. Also that the 'penny' collection at the end of Mass was realising about £10 each Sunday. About 120 visits had been made before Christmas. The group have taken on a project in Obdurman, Sudan providing two motor bikes for use by the vocational training centres. It would involve £970 to be paid over three years, the first payment of £325 was paid in December. Fr. M. asked that a list of all visits made could be given to him on a monthly basis and this request was also made to the Legion of Mary.

Malachi Houlihan expressed interest in a St David's Day Concert involving all the Catholic Feeder Schools and Bishop Vaughan Comprehensive. It was agreed that one person would be needed to co-ordinate it all and once the Youth production had ended this weekend, perhaps one of the Youth leaders could take this idea on board. It would be good to try and involve all Parishes together in the Hall. Fr. M. said that he would ask St. Illtyds School when they visited the hall this week.

Paul Relf remarked on the shortage of readers and how people had to 'jump in' unprepared at the last minute as people on the schedule failed to turn up. Ministers did not return their availability forms in time to Fr. M. hence the shortage of Ministers this quarter. Fr. M. has agreed to recruit more members. Recruitment is needed in all Ministries and Paul told the meeting of a Ministries Fayre that he had attended in Florida where each Ministry had their own stall to attract interest.

Frances was concerned that because her name was down as representing the Bereavement Group that parishioners will think the group exists but as she has experienced a close bereavement in the past year, she has not started a group. Fr. M stressed the importance of such a group and how he hopes to start one soon.

## **PREPARATION FOR LENT & EASTER**

There will be days of recollection and training for Ministers. 50 days is a long period and it is a challenge to keep people focused in preparation for Lent and Easter. Jeni suggested that some formal information should be given as to what the Triduum is

about. It would be good to have a link between the Masses again, though this could prove not so easy at every Mass.

The Station Mass takes place at Sacred Heart on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March. It was suggested that ushers should be recruited to show people and latecomers to their seats. Fr. M. agreed that this is a Ministry that needs to be developed.

Paul suggested that perhaps a Scripture information evening could be held to explain the meaning of the readings of Lent and Easter more fully and widen the listening audience beyond weekday Mass attendance.

#### **FUTURE EVENTS:**

Possible St David's Day Concert	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> March
Station Mass	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March
Music Day for the Diocese	March/April

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

The Morriston Orpheus Choir has left the Sacred Heart Centre and the Hall will be available for other bookings.

Plans for refurbishment are with the council as planning permission is needed for the toilets to meet with handicapped access regulations.

The Trustees are also in receipt of the plans and once they have given the go ahead, they can go out to tender.

The Centre, once refurbished will need to be advertised and perhaps a small leaflet could be produced to advertise it.

Foundry Road is still unsold and the Parish is still paying Insurance on the property. The Diocese is trying to change it to a business concern in order to get a higher sale price.

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

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm.

Father Michael thanked all who attended and the meeting ended with a prayer at 8.05pm.