

.MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 5 MARCH 2004

PRESENT:

Father Michael	Chairperson	Tim Hannifin	SVP
Paola Browne	Youth	Arthur Jones	Catechists
Jeni Burridge	Music	Joy McCready	Youth
Michael Burridge	Altar Servers	Jackie Murray	Senior Citizen Rep
Clare Chiles	Minutes	Bridie O'Brien	Senior Citizen Rep
Nehemiah Condono	Legion of Mary	Paul Relf	Sacristy
Francis Graham	Prayer Group	Sheila Smith	Council of Churches

The meeting began at 7.05 pm with a prayer.

APOLOGIES:

Karolina Ashton, Gabriella Browne and Elizabeth Relf.

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

MATTERS ARISING:

Foundry Road was discussed and it was mentioned that over the years Parish money had been spent on the building, but it was now almost derelict. It was hoped that the Parish would receive a proportion of the sale price and that 20% would be an acceptable amount. It was suggested that the Finance Committee could express our feelings to the Trustees. Fr. M. explained that every parish must have a finance committee to fulfil the law and to ensure that money is present for the need of our projects: however the membership of our finance committee could be expanded.

Parental consent forms are being prepared for any children going on parish activities. COPCA are now more organised and CRB checks should not take as long as in the past.

It will not be possible to move the organ from the Sacred Heart Centre to the Church as it is too heavy for the church porch to bear the weight. The organ in the Centre will be left as it is but it has not been tuned this year as there is little demand for its use. With the sale of so many Chapels, there is a glut of organs for sale and Fr.M. is on the lookout for a suitable organ for the Church. It was suggested that we contact the Swansea Organ Association offering the use of the organ to its members so that they can practise.

Worship/Spirituality

It was agreed that the new trolley housing the hymn books was a vast improvement on the former cardboard boxes. Night prayer is still quiet but enjoyed by those who remain after Mass.

The wardrobe housing the cassocks is inadequate and the cottas are very creased. New cassocks have been ordered and should be here in time for Easter. Cotton cottas would be preferable.

The new readers are settling in well and the rota is working well at present.

There are 2 new altar servers at 9.30 Mass. Servers should have made their 1st Holy Communion.

New Eucharistic Ministers are also settling in well. It was noted that the Tabernacle lock is awkward but Fr. M. replied that 'practice makes perfect' and that there would be a training day during Lent so that Ministers could practise opening it then. SVP members take Communion to the sick and any minister or relative can take communion to the sick/housebound, though at present there is no need for people to go in 'twos'. It would be good if more people joined the Music group.

Education

First Confession classes have started and there are three bright children taking part, who have supportive parents.

Confirmation. There is an excellent group of 12 candidates, also having supportive parents this year. Screening of children who have attended Mass for the past two years has worked. The candidates are currently undergoing a 24 hour fast to raise funds and they plan to visit Llangyfelach Church and a Jewish Synagogue. The date of Confirmation is set for 27 June 2004.

Baptism classes are going well. It was noted that some of the families and their visitors did not know what to expect during the service and it was suggested that one of the classes might incorporate a session on the Liturgy, etc.

Welcomers should also be encouraged to take visitors to their seats and give them a hymn book, etc. The Welcoming Ministry needs to be developed as a Ministry of hospitality. The Church needs to accept movement during Mass even during the readings.

People are not completing the duty list before Mass and Fr M. asks people to check this list before Mass.

Youth group: There is nothing being planned at present and sadly no male has come forward to replace Roger, which puts extra stress on Paola and Joy. The work before the Panto was very hard but it was a great success. It was suggested that in order to involve more people and encourage greater audiences that the Panto be open to all and not just the youth members. It was suggested that advance publicity and posters or adverts in the local papers or Menevia News promote the Panto. £1250 has been sent to Zambia and the Youth project is now closed.

Film canisters will again be available during Lent for the youngsters to collect 2 pence pieces.

Social Concerns

Council of Churches: There was an excellent turn out at the unity service at Morryston Hospital. The Woman's World Day of Prayer is being held at Sacred Heart Church on Friday 5 March at 2.00 pm. It was suggested that Sheila might put forward a later start time next year, since it is impossible for most working people to attend. There is no Walk of Witness this year because the Police have no funding to marshal the walk. A service will take place at Sacred Heart Church and people can walk over to Tabernacle Chapel on the pavement. The next Council of Churches meeting is at Seion Newydd on Tuesday 16 March at 7.30 pm.

SVP: Members are visiting about 6 parishioners a week. The Sudan project is coming to a close with only one more payment to be made. The SVP is sponsoring Margaret Cox on pilgrimage to Lourdes and the Parish is sponsoring Liam Walsh.

Fr. M. spoke about the next Parish project which will be in support of Nepal, the 4th poorest country in the world. Part of the project will help the people make the most of the assets that they have and create a water system for the village using local materials.

The bus bringing people to the early morning Mass has increased its charges to £30.00 which means that the 10 passengers would have to pay £3.00 each. Fr. M. has agreed to pay the difference and users could voluntarily put the extra in the collection, if able.

Bereavement Group: This has started training with six volunteers and is open to new members for the next session, but then membership will be restricted. It has been suggested that members from other Bereavement groups be invited to share their experiences and that Frances Graham give a talk on counselling skills. The group will not be ready until November at the Service of Commemoration of the Dead.

Legion of Mary: Members are visiting private houses. Nehemiah indicated that the Legion of Mary is more of a Spiritual nature whereas the SVP is of a practical nature.

LENT/EASTER EVENTS

To date, there has been a good attendance at the Exposition and Benediction held on Thursdays. There will be a Penitential Service in Clydach on 30 March 2004. Fr. M. will also arrange one in Morriston, primarily for our children who will be making their First confession at the start of Holy Week. Whether the Passover Meal is held this year will depend on the state of the Sacred Heart Centre. On Holy Thursday soup will be provided by the Confirmation group and there will be Watching at the Altar of Repose until Midnight. The time for the Vigil is undecided as yet.

During the Easter Season Fr. M. will be available to bless homes with the Easter Water.

SACRED HEART CENTRE

The trustees have finally given the go ahead for the Sacred Heart Centre to be upgraded but an asbestos survey has revealed traces in the ceilings which must be removed professionally. After removal of the asbestos, the Centre has to be examined by the HSE. This means that for the present all building work has to be put on hold. It is hoped to kit out the kitchen with a stainless steel sink and two units. Paul Relf will look into the possibility of a small lottery grant of about £5,000. Hopefully Parishioners will donate some items for use in the kitchen. It was suggested that the plans be displayed in the Church porch.

PARISH SUMMER TRIPS

It is hoped that 2 or 3 trips could be arranged throughout the Summer season but volunteers will be needed to arrange this.

A.O.B.

The Youth Cross meeting will be held in Cologne next year and it is by invitation only. Fr. M. will request that places be reserved for some of our Youth members to attend. It is hoped that members of the Parish will sponsor/fund our Youth and Fr. M. will also contribute towards expenses.

The Prayer Chain is still functioning and special named intentions are on display on the Web. It was suggested that the Council meeting might be held more frequently, since there seemed to be a lot to cover on this occasion.

Fr. M. told the meeting that the Benedictines in Gendros were having a difficult time raising funds in Gendros. Paying off the Parish debt has not left them with much money on which to survive, dashing their hopes of sending money back to India. It was suggested that Father Sebastian be invited to our Church to give a talk on the Turin Shroud and a donation could be

made to him. It was also agreed that Fr. M. would make a donation to cover a set of vestments for the Priests in Gendros. It was also suggested by the SVP that the Benedictines could be adopted as their new project in April.

DATNM

Thursday, 17 June 2004, at 7.00 pm.

Father Michael thanked all who had attended, and the meeting ended at 9.07 pm with a prayer.