

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 17 NOVEMBER 2005

PRESENT:

Father Michael	Chairperson	Malachi Houlihan	SVP
Karolina Ashton	Parishioner	Arthur Jones	Catechists
Rodolpho Badilla	Legion of Mary	Paul Relf	Sacristy
Michael Burridge	Sacristy	Sheila Smith	Council of Churches
Jeni Burridge	Music Group	Clare Chiles	Bereavement
Francis Graham	Prayer Group	Jackie Murray	Parishioner

The meeting began at 7.05 pm with a prayer.

APOLOGIES:

Tim Hannifin, Seamus O' Connor.

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

MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising.

MATTERS ARISING FROM EACH COMMITTEE:

Worship/Spirituality

Concern was expressed about a glass panel behind the altar which had been replaced by clear glass. It was not considered "fitting". Owing to vandalism, the glass sometimes has to be replaced and a single sheet of coloured glass can be very expensive. Fr. Michael will investigate.

A suggestion was made to construct a grotto in the Church grounds. Fr. Michael replied that he had been considering a grotto in the back area of Church, but no definite plans had been made.

It was questioned whether a small Garden of Remembrance could be set up in the Parish grounds for the burial of ashes. Fr Michael replied that with the high number of Catholic cremations, a Columbarium would fill up very quickly. Further, the security of a Columbarium in this area could not be guaranteed.

It was also suggested that on Remembrance Sunday, a wreath of poppies could be placed on the metal cross outside Church and that people could place their poppies there. Fr. Michael agreed to this.

Frances Graham reflected on the prayer group meetings of the past year all of which she had enjoyed. The leaders have met in Porthcawl and will meet again in January. The Carmarthen Conference went well though there were not many people there. Frances has attended a retreat in the Pastoral Centre, Cardiff "Come let us adore him" and has attended an ecumenical conference "Churches together". The Lighthouse group meets on the first Wednesday of every month in Clydach Road and prays for all things of concern in Morryston. Fr. Michael suggested that people, not necessarily Catholic, be invited to share in the group

at Morriston to expand numbers and perhaps Frances could advertise this. Sheila replied that the Morriston Council of Churches have their own prayer groups and they all knew the dates and venues.

Morriston Council of Churches continues as usual. Christian Unity week is from the 18th – 25th January and there will be a united service in Morriston Hospital Chapel. The talk will be given by Rev. Sean Stillman.

Since February, the music group has gained one alto who also plays the piano. Jeni attended the Society of St Gregory conference in Whitby, representing Menevia. Ten parishioners from Sacred Heart attended the workshop run by Marty Haugen – this was very successful with over 100 people attending. Alison Lloyd is a great loss, having moved to Cardiff and more keyboard players are needed. Fr. Michael has bought back music from the USA after attending a liturgy conference there.

There have been a few new altar servers including one Filipino member. The Filipinos make up 15% of the congregation and it is good to see their enthusiasm.

The Legion of Mary continues to visit the hospital and nursing homes which is a great help to Fr. Michael. More people would like to be visited but they are not on the .list supplied by Fr. Michael. He reminded the meeting of the Data Protection Act (Europe) which states that people must ask to be visited or tell the Admissions Nurse to make known on their notes that they would like a visit. In defence of the Act, this is to respect people's rights but it could be considered unfair on those who would like a visit.

Education

Only 3 candidates have come forward for Confirmation so far. Belinda and Roger have "retired" as catechists but Roger may come in from time to time. Heather Harris and Helen Thompson have replaced them.

It is hoped that more Eucharistic Ministers might come forward to lead the morning or evening services when there is no priest available. Four Filipinos have agreed to become Eucharistic Ministers and a training session will be held in the new year for both readers and ministers.

Social Concerns

The meeting was told that the SVP were unable to support the seminary in India since it was against the rules of the National Council to support a project outside the United Kingdom. As yet, no project has been selected. Fr. Michael wondered if the Priests in Gendros could be supported. He highlighted the problems they were experiencing - a £2000 bill for electrical repairs and the boiler in the house not working properly, which meant it could only be used for an hour each morning and evening. To support the priests, Fr. Michael has given the parish £2000.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVENTS

An Advent preparation evening will take place on Thursday, 24th November at 5.00 pm – this will lead us into a very long Advent but will mean we have a full week to decorate the Church.

The Parish Bazaar will take place on Saturday, 26th November at 11.00 am.

The Advent Carol service will take place on Monday 19th or Thursday 22nd December. There will be a later start of 7.00 pm this year to accommodate last minute shoppers and workers to

negotiate the traffic. The choir members have requested more Christmas carols, so the service will begin with Advent carols and end with Christmas carols.

There will be a Vigil Mass at 7.00 pm with the usual Christmas Day services but no 6.30 pm Mass.

The Anointing of the Sick will be held on the third Sunday of Advent. It is always a problem to find Priests for a Penitential service so that will be arranged for Lent.

SACRED HEART CENTRE

There are a few minor problems at the Centre since the flood - toilet doors will not close properly and the floor will need to be replaced in the small hall. The insurance loss adjuster has cleared all repairs.

The boiler in Church has finally "died", and will be replaced on the 12th December. It will be placed on the wall which will make wheelchair access much easier.

DATNM

Thursday, 9th March 2006, at 7.00 pm.

Father Michael thanked all who had attended, and the meeting ended at 8.33 pm with a prayer.