

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 16 March 2006

PRESENT:

Father Michael	Chairperson	Arthur Jones	Catechist
Rodolpho Badilla	Legion of Mary	Paul Relf	Sacristy
Michael BurrIDGE	Sacristy	Seamus O'Connor	SVP
Jeni BurrIDGE	Music Group	Clare Chiles	Bereavement
Francis Graham	Prayer Group	Jackie Murray	Parishioner

The meeting began at 7.08 pm with a prayer.

APOLOGIES:

Tim Hannifin, Elizabeth Relf, Sheila Smith.

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

MATTERS ARISING:

The Advent Carol Service went extremely well and attendance was much better compared to previous years.

The glass pane in the sanctuary has not been replaced with the proper glass as yet. Replacing the pane will take place when further panes need replacing, so that it is cost effective.

No further thought has been given to the grotto. Priority has been given to replacing the windows in the back room, the toilets and cleaning cupboard. These new windows should make a big difference to the warmth in the back corridor.

MATTERS ARISING FROM EACH COMMITTEE:

Worship/Spirituality

A new red altar frontal will hopefully arrive in time for Palm Sunday. The palms have arrived as well a new corpus of the Risen Christ. The Paschal candle has not arrived yet, but should do so in time for Easter. Our candle is 4 inches in width and tapered to 2 inches to fit the base.

A lot of wax is appearing on the sanctuary floor – this is caused by the young servers banging the candle down as they set it on the floor. At the next practice this will be pointed out to the servers and they will be taught how to hold the candles correctly.

Frances Graham informed the meeting of a retreat at Nicholaston House led by Fr Keniri from 28 – 30 April. This is proving popular but booking forms are still available. A meeting is to take place to discuss a venue for the Charismatic Conference which has been held at Carmarthen up till now – Carmarthen is becoming very expensive and standards were not too good last year; all possibilities are being considered for a new venue, including the Sacred Heart Centre. Sheila and Frances attended a weekend of Healing in Suffolk and there is another event in May.

There have been several timetable clashes over the past few weeks which have interfered with the Prayer Group meeting but this should settle once Lent is over.

Several people have specifically asked for prayers from the Group and Fr Michael commented that the Prayer Chain needs updating and revived.

No new members have joined the Music group but there is the possibility of at least one new member in the near future.

Although Jeni could not fault the logic behind the Bishop's letter concerning Services of the Word, there was concern that if people were expected to travel to other parishes for weekday Masses whenever Fr Michael is away, then the community of Sacred Church would suffer. As yet Fr Michael has not been given guidelines as to how these services should be conducted, but will have them in place before his first absence from the parish.

It was suggested that since readers, in general, proclaim the Word well in our Parish, that missalettes be "done away with" and missals be provided for the hard of hearing. Missalettes can be noisy and the message should be one of "listen, rather than rustle and read." Fr. Michael noted that missalettes cost about £2 per week whilst missals would be quite costly, and would be out of date soon, since the missal has been in the process of change since 1996. It was also pointed out, however, that if a child makes a noise then the reader cannot always be heard. Some parishioners also had difficulty in understanding some readers.

There have been no new servers since the last meeting. It was felt that the cassocks were in need of attention.

The Legion of Mary continues to visit the hospital and nursing homes which is a great help to Fr Michael. They hope to move on to visiting house to house which will take courage to "go out on the streets".

There has been a spate of deaths recently and the Bereavement Group is busy working behind the scenes arranging Liturgies and looking after homes during the Funeral.

Education

There are four candidates for Confirmation and three catechists. It is a low number but they are a good group of candidates. Arthur was a little concerned about fund raising with such a small group. The kitchen in the Centre is now fully operational and fully equipped for everything that is needed to provide the usual Soup on Holy Thursday.

There are four candidates for First Communion. Two catechists work with the children and Fr Michael and a catechist with the parents, who are mostly mums; it would be nice if more dads came to spread the faith. The parents watch and then discuss tapes delivered by the Religious Director for Education at Plymouth who has an excellent rapport with people. There will be a penitential service in Holy Week for the children to make their First Confessions and it will also be open to the Parish.

Social Concerns

The SVP is visiting the housebound every week. It was decided to take the housebound on another trip to Gower for a meal since this was so popular last year. A trip will also be arranged to visit Weston Super Mare. The Matthew Mulcahy Charity walk raised £2,500, of which Morrision raised £692.50, and this will be presented to Sr Norah at a social evening in Church next Thursday. The money will be going to the Ursulines in the Cameroons and Sister Norah will be giving a talk on their work. The SVP has still not decided on a project and Bernard Regan is looking into this matter.

LENT/EASTER EVENTS

A Penitential Service will be held in Holy Week, primarily for those making their First Confessions, along with their families. There will be a Deanery Penitential Service in the week before Holy Week.

A Passover Meal will be held on the Tuesday of Holy Week.

The Chrism Mass is on Wednesday at the Cathedral at 11.30 am.

On Good Friday, Morning Prayer starts at the earlier time of 9.00 am at Sacred Heart Church so that the Walk of Witness can leave promptly at 9.30 am.

The Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday will have a possible starting time of 8.45 pm.

There will be an Evening of Prayer and Music in Holy Week, probably on the Monday.

There will be a Pentecost Vigil again this year, and it would be good if different nationalities of the Parish could do a reading in their language. Following its great success last year, there will be an International meal at the Centre at lunchtime on Pentecost Sunday.

SACRED HEART CENTRE

The insurance company has agreed to cover all the flood damage. Tenders have been obtained for repairing the floors in both halls and all other work deemed necessary. It has taken four months for the blowers to dry out the floors but we will be compensated for costs incurred..

The kitchen is now fully stocked with 100 place settings and cutlery.

FUTURE EVENTS

The Papal Nuncio is visiting the Diocese from the 24 May to 28 May. There is a Diocesan Mass on the Thursday, the Feast of the Ascension, which means that we will need to alter the time of the morning Mass in our church.

Confirmation will take place on 23 June, the Feast of the Sacred Heart, with the Bishop in attendance.

Morrison Carnival is on 1 July in the field next to the Church – the Mass time will be altered for that Saturday.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The possibility of the bell being restored to the bell tower was discussed but Fr Michael replied that the bell was cracked and had disappeared from the Centre where it had been stored. The tower itself is letting in water which comes through into the Church and could not support the weight of a bell without major repairs.

The foundation stone of the Chapel is 1907 – it was suggested that the date of this anniversary be used as a social occasion to mark its centenary.

DATNM

Thursday, 15 June at 7 pm.

Father Michael thanked all who had attended, and the meeting ended at 8.46 pm with a prayer.