

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 8 March 2007

### PRESENT:

Father Michael	Chairperson	Anne Coombes	SVP
Joyce Aylward	Legion of Mary	Clare Chiles	Bereavement
Rodolpho Badilla	Legion of Mary	Malachi Houlihan	Parishioner
Heather Harris	Catechist	Kirsty O'Brien	Altar Server
Paul Relf	Sacristy	Irene O'Brien	Altar Server

The meeting began at 7.03 pm with a prayer.

### APOLOGIES:

Jeni Burridge, Michael Burridge, Jackie Murray, Seamus O'Connor, Arthur Jones, Frances Graham and Sheila Smith.

### MINUTES:

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

There may be another organist to play at the early morning mass but on an irregular basis. This would be very good news for the present organist as it would take some of the pressure of having to attend two morning masses each Sunday.

Thanks were extended to the Altar servers who are "clearing up" at the end of all Sunday Masses.

The Morriston Council of Churches' functions have been well attended this year. The Silent Walk of Witness for Good Friday morning will take place again, starting from Sacred Heart Church at 9.00 am with Morning Prayer.

An open air service is planned in Morriston Park to celebrate Pentecost this year since the Council feel that the Holy Spirit is largely neglected; the details will be finalised later. At Sacred Heart Church, we have our own agenda for Pentecost which includes the Vigil of Pentecost and an International meal on the Sunday after mid morning Mass.

The Women's World Day of Prayer pamphlets were 'dumped' in the church porch with no details being given to Father Michael, or any request for him to advertise this event. He subsequently found them in the week of the event, when it was too late to do anything about it. [This often happens with the material for Christian Aid Week too!] There was one representative from our parish at the event. Some time afterwards, a request was made to send a Parish representative to the organisation committee; this person would be responsible for the distribution and sale of the pamphlets.

The Legion of Mary has 8 members attending their weekly meetings. Work is assigned to members after their meeting to cover the visits of 6 Nursing homes and also Morrision Hospital Swansea Prison is also visited and there is usually one representative from the Praesidium who visits the Missionaries of Charity (Mother Teresa sisters) to speak informally and offer spiritual support to those who attend. In the past 3 months, assistance has been given to 3 Swansea parishes who have shown an active interest in forming their own Legion Praesidium. There are 25 auxiliary members who are unable to assume the duties of active membership but who associate themselves with the Legion by undertaking a service of prayer in its name.

Father Michael has asked for a full list of membership details, including auxiliary members, for our statistics return to the Bishop's Conference.

### Education

The Confirmation programme is going well with 5 members in the group. Heather has taken over from Arthur with Roger's assistance. Father Michael is very grateful to both Heather and Roger who are doing a terrific job and the feedback has been very good.

The First Communion group is the largest group for a long time with 14 very enthusiastic children. A new programme has been started this year which appears to be going well and the parents are also very co-operative in their meetings.

### Social Concerns

The SVP continues to meet regularly and members are visiting the housebound. At the recent district meeting, a holiday centre for a needy family has become available. The cost is £652 for a family of four and if the SVP can finance one family, then Fr Michael has offered to match this, therefore two families could go from our Parish. Fr M was asked to think about families who would have the most benefit from this holiday.

Fr Michael expressed his thanks to the Legion of Mary and the SVP and asked that his gratitude be taken back to the group members since without their house visits and taking Communion to the sick and housebound, Father would not have the time to be able to administer the Tribunal and other work for the Diocese.

### **LENT/EASTER**

The parish calendar has been a great help to Fr Michael as it gave all the dates concerned with Lent and Holy week in advance. The calendar ends at Easter and Fr Michael would like more dates from the various groups for the next calendar. There are two individuals who are to be baptised into the Church at the Easter Vigil

The Friday Lenten soup lunches this year have proved very successful, making this meeting not just a fund raising affair but a very agreeable and social occasion as well. Different teams are responsible each week for the preparation and serving and there has been friendly competition between the teams. It has been very well supported averaging £50 each week.

### **SACRED HEART CENTRE**

The bookings for the Centre have increased recently and it is now in regular use on most weekday evenings. There are some broken tables which need to be stacked out of the way and new tables need to be ordered. A stacking trolley was purchased but this is now useless as

the screws have been “removed”. Many groups are not stacking the chairs away after using the hall and time which should be spent on cleaning the hall is being taken up by stacking chairs. A reminder will be sent to the groups who hire the halls about clearing up after their sessions.

After the October flood, the skirtings have been stuck down using ‘No Nails’. Quotes are being obtained for the repairs needed for the smaller hall which range from £4,500 to £6,000. These quotes do not include decorating but it is hoped that the insurance will cover this. The Council has still not rectified the problem of the kerbstones being too low but our Insurance company will keep suing them for repairs to the Centre should any further flooding occur. Even if the Council finally repairs the road, Father Michael will consider purchasing flood gates to put inside the Centre to prevent the possibility of any further flooding into the Centre.

It is a cause for concern that so many vehicles are being broken into and the rise in crime at weekends is unacceptable. It was suggested that the Council should be asked about the installation of CCTV cameras. Each incident must be reported to the Police, not in the expectation of something being done, but at least a crime number will be issued, and statistics should then show an unacceptable number of break-ins in School Road.

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

At the change of the financial year in April, the Parish project needs to change direction and as there is now relative peace in Nepal, it was suggested that the parish adopt the charity run by Val Newton of Wales Romanian Aid. The families she supports usually have some tragedy and many have only one parent or children are being raised by an aged relative. If there is no income, there is no house and sponsorship is needed to provide housing and simple projects like the provision of a cow – which would provide milk that can be sold or made into cheese thus providing an income. Val continues with her visits since the death of her husband, and has been instrumental in building numerous homes for poor families at about £500.00 each. Father Michael will invite her to the parish where she can give more details of her work.

Fr Michael would like more fund raising evenings in the Parish, not just to raise funds but also to have more of a social aspect in the parish.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no business to discuss.

## **DATNM**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 7 pm.

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