

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 12 July 2007

PRESENT:

Father Michael	Chairperson	Heather Harris	Catechist
Rodolpho Badilla	Legion of Mary	Arthur Jones	Catechist
Clare Chiles	Bereavement	Pauline Morris	Social Committee
Anne Coombes	SVP	Jackie Murray	Parishioner
Mark Cunningham	SVP	Sheila Smith	Council of Churches
Frances Graham	Prayer Group		

The meeting began at 7.03 pm with a prayer.

APOLOGIES:

Jeni Burridge, Michael Burridge, Seamus O'Connor and Paul Relf.

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

The Legion of Mary continues to visit parishioners in their homes, the hospital and nursing homes. Prayers were requested for the continuing recovery of Joyce Aylward, one of the Legion's most active members.

Frances Graham attended the 40th Anniversary of Charismatic Renewal at Westminster on 5th May this year. There are meetings held every few months in Wales. The Charismatic Renewal Conference is to be held in North Wales from 7th to 10th August and Bishop Regan will be in attendance.

There was nothing to report from the Council of Churches as Sheila had not attended the last meeting and no minutes have been passed on to her.

Education

The Confirmation programme has now finished and the certificates will be given out to the candidates at the 10.30 am Mass on Sunday 15th July. The number of parishioners who attended the Confirmation Mass was very disappointing but Father Michael addressed this at all Masses the following Sunday. The Mass itself was very meaningful and there was a deeply spiritual atmosphere. £900.00 has been raised which is a tremendous effort from only 5 members who have made up this year's group. A cheque has been sent to Cafod with the request that it be used towards a Youth project. Fr. Michael thanked Heather and Roger for

stepping in as catechists after Arthur had been 'waylaid'. It was agreed by all that there had been a very good group this year.

The First Communion programme has also finished and all the children have received their First Holy Communion with the exception of one candidate who will make his on Sunday 22nd July. This group has also attended well and there has been good feedback from the parents.

A catechesis group is needed for the post-confirmation teenagers. This needs to be socially orientated and fun but also with a religious input. Fr. M. will consider this for September. A Youth Leader is needed to motivate the boys but no person has come forward despite many requests and an advert on the Parish website.

Social Concerns

The SVP continues to meet regularly and members are visiting 10 housebound and two Nursing homes – Ael y Bryn and St Martin's Court. The members asked Fr. M. for the names of any one else who might need a visit. Thanks to Fr. Michael's generosity, the SVP are able to send a family from this parish to the Ozanam Holiday Centre in North Wales. The family concerned and SVP members attended a meeting at Townhill last week where an information evening and slide show of the centre took place.

Administration

Father Michael thanked Mark for keeping the Church grounds in such wonderful order.

WORLD YOUTH DAY IN SYDNEY 2008

Following Cologne, where the younger members of the group needed supervision, many of the older members missed out on many opportunities and so for Sydney, the age limit has been raised to 18, which will give the youngsters more independence to move around. Five (5) people from the parish have applied to go to Sydney and 15 from the Diocese. Fr. Michael will accompany the group and has offered to subsidise the £2000.00 needed for each person. Hopefully, there will be a number of activities to help raise funds for these youngsters.

SACRED HEART CENTRE

The Centre is up and running again after the most recent flood. The floor in the small hall has been re laid and this cost has been covered by the Insurers. Several parts of the Hall still need painting to touch it up. It is hoped that there will be no more flooding. The Highways department has been contacted concerning repair work to Pentrepoeth Road and concerns about the laying of drains outside the Centre. Despite two emails, there has been no response to date from the Council and the current heavy rain is cause for concern. The drains need to be cleaned on a regular basis, the drains on the hill lowered 2 centimetres and the kerbs need to be heightened to eliminate any further danger from flooding.

To celebrate the centenary of the Zoar Chapel, it was decided at a recent Council of Churches meeting to hold a united Harvest Festival at the Centre on September 25th at 7.00 pm, involving the Salvation Army and possibly the Morrision Rugby Club Choir to lead the

singing, followed by light refreshments. Letters and posters have been prepared and Sheila will distribute these to the various Morryston Churches.

PARISH PROJECT

The new parish project will be to support Val Newton in Wales Romanian Aid. Val looks after the poor families in Romania, Moldova and Croatia providing food and shelter. Over the years she has bought cows or goats which supply milk to make butter or cheese thus providing an income for some families; she has helped to build houses and install electricity to homes. Although these costs are high to the poor people concerned, they are relatively low to us in the West. Val would almost certainly have a particular project in mind for us. It was agreed to contact Val to invite her to the Parish in late September or October to launch this project and inspire parishioners as to where their money would be best spent. The evening could be the first fund raising event to this aim.

FUTURE EVENTS

The SVP District Council meeting will take place in the Centre Wednesday 18th July following Mass in the Church.

Fr. M. outlined his holiday plans and informed the meeting about his supply cover in his absence. The supply cover had been arranged some time ago, but all plans were up in the air since the supply priest was asked to cover a parish on a semi-permanent basis. After considerable effort, different priests will be available to cover the weekends that Fr. M. is away. There will be two Mission Appeals in September, one for money and the other for informative purposes.

The Annual SVP walk takes place in September as does the Harvest Festival Mass and the HCPT lunch on 30th September in the Centre. Owing to the late return from the Pilgrimage to Turkey, the Bereavement Mass for the Holy Souls will take place at 12 noon on Saturday 3rd November followed by the Blessing of the graves.

REPRESENTATIVES ON PARISH COUNCIL

More parishioners need to be elected onto the Council from other groups so that there is a fair representation. More parishioners need to be asked to attend the meetings.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Following the success of Fr Michael's 50th birthday party, many parishioners would like more social evenings in the Parish, some of these would raise funds but all would emphasise a social aspect in the parish. Fr. M. will announce at the end of Mass this coming Sunday news of a brain storming meeting to be held at the Centre at 7.00 pm on 19th July. Several ideas have already been put forward and it is hoped to implement some of these in the very near future. With World Youth Day 2008 and Wales Romanian Aid, it is essential that we have several groups running their own fund raising schemes.

The subject of the Grotto outside Church was raised and Fr. M replied that the idea was 'on hold' but still in his mind though he is concerned about the criminal element in the area.

It was asked if Fr. M. would be leading a pilgrimage to Medjugore, but Fr. M. replied that as an obedient servant of the Church he would not be doing so. The Vatican has not given any official recognition to the claims of the so-called visionaries. In any case, the local Bishop has persistently requested that Priests not lead any pilgrimages to this area. Whenever Our Lady has appeared, she has always pointed to Her Son, and the visionary concerned has always suffered considerably. This does not appear to be the case in Medjugore. Although the experience of prayer at Medjugore can be deep and powerful, this is always the case whenever and wherever large numbers (or even small numbers) gather to pray in Christ's name.

It was queried if Gendros parish was now free from the troubles that they had experienced recently. Fr. M. replied that they were now reasonably solvent but should the need arise then we would help them out again.

DATNM

Thursday 11th October at 7.00 pm.

Father Michael thanked all who had attended, and the meeting ended at 8.03 pm with a prayer.