

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 14 February 2008

### PRESENT:

Father Michael	Chairperson	Arthur Jones	Catechist
Rodolfo Badilla	Legion of Mary	Pauline Morris	Social Committee
Jeni Burridge	Music	Vince Mullan	Legion of Mary
Clare Chiles	Bereavement	Bernard Regan	SVP & Garden
Anne Coombes	SVP	Jo Regan	SVP
Frances Graham	Prayer Group	Sheila Smith	Council of Churches
Heather Harris	Catechist	Paul Relf	Sacristan
Malachy Houlihan	Maintenance		

The meeting began at 7.07 pm with a prayer. Father Michael extended his thanks to the many parishioners who are in attendance, representing a good cross section of the Parish.

### APOLOGIES:

Jackie Dahlgren and Philippa Gray.

### MINUTES:

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

### MATTERS ARISING:

Soap and paper towels have still not been placed in the SHC toilets. These will be purchased and will be put in position as soon as possible.

The first aid kit has been used and all the plasters have been taken. Users of the hall must be responsible for their own first aid and safety and they will be reminded that they must inform us if the First aid box needs replenishing. It was noted that as the first aid box is stored in the kitchen then blue plasters should also be provided. Mansel is due to fix the First Aid kits in the Centre and the Church permanently in situ. A bucket and brushes need to be provided and users must be reminded that they will be fined if the hall is left in a state of disrepair.

### MATTERS ARISING FROM EACH COMMITTEE:

#### Worship/Spirituality

The Legion of Mary are continuing to make many visits to patients in hospitals and the Nursing homes but they have not been given new lists of people who may be in need of a visit. As a result of the Ministry Fayre, two new parishioners have joined the Legion and are part of a team who visit. Fr. M. also asked for a list of the people who have been visited and especially asked to be notified of any deaths in the Nursing Homes.

The problems with the purificators have now been “ironed” out and they are being returned correctly folded and the rota is working well.

More sacristans are needed in case of emergency after each Mass and especially after Sunday Evening Mass if Paul is not present.

The Woman's World Day of Prayer will take place at Bethania Chapel, Morryston on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30 pm. There are 30 booklets to be sold after Sunday Masses at 20 pence each. Pauline and Jeni have offered to attend the service and one of them will represent the parish by reading at the service.

We are fortunate to have so many Altar Servers at present as there has been a recent intake from the Filipino community. The red cassocks are in need of attention and though there are new white cottas, they are not popular with the servers as they do not like the extra pleat!

Members are down in the Music Group owing to ill health and motherhood but musically everything is fine. 'Come and Sing' sessions have been organised for Lent on various Thursday nights at 6.00 pm and there were 5 people present at the first session. Three members attended a the biennial Mass of the National Network of Musicians at Strawberry Hill.

It was noted that the singing at the Lenten Station Mass at St David's was very good despite a very poor turnout of people. It was encouraging to see so many parishioners from Morryston present, allowing for the confusion over the start time.

On behalf of the Morryston Council of Churches, Sheila thanked the members of the Parish who attended the Unity Service at Morryston Hospital last month. Thanks were also extended to Michael Evans of Pentremalwed, the Chairperson of the Council, who is full of the Holy Spirit and working with what we have in common. He is introducing Hope 2008, to worship more together and to do things for the community. There is to be a programme of events over the coming year. The Council is very keen to push Teen Challenge – who are staging a musical at the SHC on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Most of the actors and musicians taking part are former addicts. Each Church has been given an allocation of tickets.

As from November 2007, Frances has become the Chairperson for Renewal in Wales. There is to be a Youth consultation at Pontllanfraith to discuss where they are with their faith as regards to Renewal in Wales and this will be coordinated by Father Leyshon.

The Summer Charismatic Renewal Conference will be held in Lampeter this year from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> August. The guest speaker will be David Wells who is well known to the parents of children who have made their Holy Communion in our Parish.

It is hoped to promote the prayer group within the Filipino community and owing to shyness, the best way to do this would be to talk to them on a one to one basis to encourage them to attend.

A Healing service is to be held at St Benedict's, Clydach in the near future.

### Education

The Confirmation classes are meeting each Sunday night and there are four female candidates this year. It is good that Arthur is well enough to resume as a catechist and he wondered how the numbers could be increased and were there any children 'out there' who could be making their Confirmation. Fr. M. replied that he wanted individuals to make their own choice to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and not be forced to do so.

### Social Concerns

The Social/ Fundraising committee held a successful Christmas party and are now planning a fund raising "Fun Night" in the Red Lion. To date, over 50 tickets have been sold and many

prizes have been donated for the raffle and auction. It was felt that some of the calendar dates might need to be altered. It was proposed that the Italian night should now be on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

The SVP has increased their visiting of late. Christmas cards were sent with a letter asking if people would appreciate a visit and there has been a good response to this. Fr. M. commented that he had received good feedback concerning these letters. The SVP Christmas party was very successful with 11 parishioners attending but a lot more would have liked to have gone. The Over 50's are well catered for in our Parish and are quite active in their own social activities. SVP members have been helping people by taking them shopping, bringing them to Church and doing practical things around their houses – moving furniture and putting up curtains. Financial help has also been provided and in particular one Romanian family has received over £400 to help with their rent. They cannot find work here due to European rules and local firms will not employ them as it costs too much. They have been told to try the East coast of the country where there is crop farming but they like it in Swansea. Despite being told not give money to them directly, some members are doing so and this is only prolonging the agony – sometimes you have to be cruel to be kind. Fr. M. pleaded with individuals not to give money directly to beggars, but instead refer them to the SVP who will assess their financial situation.

We are fortunate that we do not have any asylum seekers in the Parish unlike neighbouring parishes who have families being threatened with deportation. We have some new Polish members in the Parish and Fr. M. has purchased Polish/English prayer books for them.

### Administration

The sandbags keep “disappearing” from outside the SHC and need constant replacing. Also several light bulbs need replacing. Fr. M. has asked that all replacement bulbs should be energy saving.

The soap that was not sold in the Bazaar has been put in the toilets but this also keeps disappearing.

Chairs are not being replaced correctly and are being left in the lobby or stacked incorrectly. Users must be reminded about leaving the halls in the correct manner.

The grounds around the Church are being well maintained thanks to a small hard working team. It is encouraging to see the spring flowers blossoming.

Father Michael thanked everyone for their work in bringing the love of God to the Parish in many different forms, not just through the sacraments.

### **LENT/ EASTER EVENTS**

The usual Lenten period of Exposition on Thursdays is taking place after the morning Mass until Benediction at midday. Attendance was disappointing the first week but there was a large group present today.

The evening sessions will commence next week for the workers but owing to previous commitments, there will be no Holy hour on 28<sup>th</sup> February and 13<sup>th</sup> March. Also the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> March will have to be shorter as Fr. M. is celebrating Mass at School.

Meetings for Eucharistic Ministers and readers have been arranged for Sundays 24<sup>th</sup> February and 9<sup>th</sup> March. These meetings are part of the condition for renewal of the Ministry and will

be a chance to highlight good and bad points which may have arisen. The meetings will end with Benediction.

On 14<sup>th</sup> March, members of Gendros church have been invited to lead the Stations of the Cross which will involve music and illustrations. This will be followed by Mass. The Confirmation Group will be invited to attend.

Holy Week will commence with a Penitential Service on Monday which will be an opportunity for the children to make their First Confession. Other Priests will be invited to attend.

The Parish Seder will take place on Tuesday in the SHC.

The Easter Triduum covers the Thursday to Saturday night inclusive. There will be no Evening Mass on Easter Sunday as there is ample opportunity for parishioners to attend Mass over the Easter weekend.

### **SACRED HEART CENTRE**

The Centre is finally making money with a large number of individual bookings and regular hiring during the week nights, though the halls are not used much during the day. Please spread the word about its availability.

### **FUTURE EVENTS**

Mrs Siân James M.P. has agreed to come to the Church on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30 pm. There will be a free bus on the 4<sup>th</sup> March to the meeting in Cardiff with Anne Widdecombe.

### **REPRESENTATIVES ON PARISH COUNCIL**

The wonderful response to the request at the last meeting for more representation was noted.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A question was raised about whom a sick person who might need Holy Communion should approach. Fr. M. pointed out that it is on the bulletin that if people would like Communion then they must ask either at the Office or an individual Minister to the Sick. "We cannot read minds"! Unless Fr. M. is told of the reason for someone's absence from Church, then he can only assume that they are taking a break from Church or on holiday.

### **DATNM**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00 pm.

Father Michael thanked all who had attended, and the meeting ended at 8.17 pm with a prayer.