

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 9 October 2008

PRESENT:

Father Michael	Chair	Heather Harris	Catechist
Rodolpho Badilla	Legion of Mary	Malachi Houlihan	Caretaker
Jeni Burridge	Music	Arthur Jones	Catechist
Michael Burridge	Altar Servers	Pauline Morris	Social Committee
Clare Chiles	Bereavement	Vince Mullan	Legion of Mary
Anne Coombes	SVP	Seamus O'Connor	SVP
Mark Cunningham	SVP	Bernard Regan	SVP
Jackie Dahlgren	Parishioner	Paul Relf	Sacristan
Frances Graham	Prayer Group		

The meeting began at 7.03 pm with a prayer followed by Fr. M. welcoming the members .

APOLOGIES:

Liz Relf, Jo Regan and Sheila Smith.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

MATTERS ARISING:

Sheila Smith was not present at the last meeting.

The SVP is sponsoring a student and not a Priest.

The correct website for Charismatic Renewal is www.ccrw.org.uk

A question was raised as to whether anyone had spoken to the MCC about the continuing omission of anything to do with the Catholic Church. Sheila was not present at the meeting but there has been no feedback at all.

MATTERS ARISING FROM EACH COMMITTEE:

Worship/Spirituality

The Sacristy is running smoothly. There are lots of altar servers at the moment, with a good core of older servers, especially at the 10.30 Mass. Denzil is leaving for University shortly and he will be missed as he is so reliable.

More keyboard players are needed. Some people have come forward but they have only basic ability and it will be some time before they reach Mass standard. The Choir has lost a few members due to illness or the arrival of babies. There has been no response so far to the request in the bulletin for new members. Six musicians from Menevia (3 from Sacred Heart, 2 from Mumbles and 1 from St David's) attended the National Network of Pastoral Musician's Conference at Worth Abbey, Sussex on "How can I keep from singing"; 300 attended on the Saturday with 92 residents over the weekend.

The Society of St Gregory Summer School ran a conference, also at Worth Abbey, with the theme “You have put on Jesus”, led by Stephen Dean and Martin Foster. It proved to be a very valuable week

The Summer Charismatic Renewal Conference was held at Lampeter. Owing to his wife’s illness, Joe Dalton could not attend but he was replaced by John Delaney and the other guest speaker was David Wells; 50 members stayed overnight with lots of day visitors. It was the most spiritual conference ever with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for three nights, asking God in prayer what he wants from the Group. There is a report on the website. There has been a reunion in St Non’s with the theme “Rebuild my Church”. The Hereford Conference takes place this weekend and this is usually well attended. It is hoped that the next project will be more in the style of pilgrimages.

The Legion of Mary continues to meet. There have been a couple of new members, one from Gendros. Members continue with prison visiting, Oasis and the soup kitchen with the Sisters of Charity but the mainly with visits to the hospital and nursing homes; Canon Morrissey has supplied them with an up to date list of residents.

Education

Confirmation will start on the Feast of Christ the King. This year a new book will be used by the candidates: “Witness – a Parish guide for Confirmation”. Arthur and Heather will continue as catechists.

Social Concerns

The Bereavement Mass will be held on Saturday 8th November at 12 noon. A list of names of the last year’s deceased of the parish will be displayed and letters will be sent to relatives of those on the list inviting them to the Mass . Help is required with the refreshments.

The Social/Fundraising committee has a new chair, Heather Harris, the previous chair having to retire owing to family reasons. After a summer break, it is proposed to hold a Parish Quiz Night on 15th November, and a Christmas Shopping Trip to Cheltenham on 29th November. After Christmas, the group will focus on a Celtic Evening. New members will be recruited to help with these events. The group was congratulated for their past successes. The purpose of the Committee is to provide a variety of events throughout the year, but it is not expected that everyone necessarily attends every single activity.

The SVP continues with visits to the housebound and help with transport. 7 parishioners were transported to the annual Mass of the Sick, initiated by Fr John Dermody, at St Illtyd’s last Sunday. The members are functioning well as a group and have requested that they be informed if anyone knows of a person in need of a visit, or who would like transport. The appeal box after each mass in the Church porch has raised £61 in the last three months and £81 was raised from the permanent box in the wall.

Administration

In view of the recent Banking crisis, concern was expressed about the Sacred Heart Savings Club. In anticipation of this matter being raised, HSBC has been contacted and given assurance that our savings, which are currently at £62,500, will be safely paid out. The money is in different accounts to get the best deal from high interest.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVENTS

The Advent preparation evening will be held Thursday 27 November.

An open air carol concert will take place outside St David's, Woodfield Street on Saturday 13th December at 11.00 am.

A Parish Christmas Party is to be held on Saturday 13th December at the Sacred Heart Centre from 5.30 pm with food and entertainment and Father Christmas in attendance.

The Mass of Anointing will take place on 7th December, the second Sunday of Advent.

The Carol Service will be held on Monday 22nd December at 7.00 pm.

SACRED HEART CENTRE

The Church, Presbytery and Centre successfully passed a recent asbestos check. Most of our asbestos problems in the Centre were solved when the new kitchens and toilets were installed.

Recently, there have been a few problems with some hirers of the hall not sticking to the contract of using just the one hall. Locks have now been installed on the hall doors and the doors to the upper floor so that children can no longer run freely around the Centre. A gate has also been positioned across the stairs to deny access to upstairs from the back hall.

The sandbags which are vital in preventing the Centre from being flooded have been stolen but have since been replaced. It is hoped that the flood gates, which are now on order, will be in place by the end of the year and hopefully, all our flooding problems will be solved. The Parish will bear the costs for this scheme but our Insurers have contacted the Council for past damages. It is hoped that once the flood gates are installed then there should be a reduction in our insurance payments.

The money raised by the bonus ball scheme and the income from the hire of the hall pay for any other repairs to the Centre.

REPRESENTATIVES ON PARISH COUNCIL

Fr. Michael commented on how pleasing it was to see such a good representation of the Parish at this meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Concern was expressed that there has been no feedback from the Youth since their experience in Sydney World Youth Day. Fr. M. explained that since their return, they had all gone their separate ways but he hoped that at Christmas, they will come together as a group and put something together to the Parish by way of thanks. Fr M. assured the meeting that the Youth were deeply appreciative for all that had been done for them.

There have been problems during the 6.30 Mass with cars being vandalised sometimes simply because a plastic bag has been left on the seat. The police know the culprit and log any sightings of him and what he is wearing, but cannot charge him since he is under age. A CD of our CCTV evidence has been given to the Police. The police have promised to keep the road under surveillance.

DATNM

Thursday 19th February at 7.00 pm.

Father Michael thanked all who had attended, and the meeting ended at 8.25 pm with a prayer.