

## Parish Gathering – Sunday 6th March 2022

### Chaired by Nigel Anstead – Also present Fr Nicholas Nwanzi - Notes by Barbara Kay - 30 parishioners present

Fr Nicholas opened in prayer.

#### Situation in the Ukraine

Nigel expressed his concern about the current situation in the Ukraine. The CAFOD Family Fast Day proceeds this year will be divided between the Ukraine and Sierra Leone. Nigel proposed that in addition to this, Christ the King as a church make a donation directly 'church to church' to a Ukrainian church, and Rachel gave the name of a church in Peterborough. Chris Brookes said that this might not be correct procedure and that he would check with the Diocese as to whether we could do this. (NB CB has checked and this is not possible)

#### Lifting of Restrictions in church

The Saturday 6 pm Mass remains socially distanced. Compliance with wearing masks at the Sunday 10.30 Mass preferred.

#### Parking

There is adequate space for everyone if all the grass areas round the grounds are used. Katherine Smith pointed out that there are dustbins which block the entrance to the overflow area to the right of the hall. Nigel suggested that a family who arrives in good time for the Latin Mass could move them. Barbara agreed to arrange this.

#### Social Committee

- a) **Afternoon Vintage Tea** – a very good attendance of 57 was reported for February with a profit of £230 including the raffle. The next Vintage Tea is on Friday 25th March.
- b) There are now 25 regular members of the **Golden Friendship Club**.
- c) There will be a **St Patrick's Day Lunch** on 11th March run by the Golden Friendship Club. 34 people had booked for this. Marian will organise a collection for aid to the Ukraine, the total of which the Golden Friendship club will match. This lunch is now fully booked.
- d) Sue reported that the **Platinum Jubilee** weekend ran from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. The plan was to organise a "car park street party", similar to that held five years ago, and Sue would find out from Marguerita Carol which day the church car park would be available for this. She invited people to offer their help to form a committee and also for suggestions for possible activities which can be sent to her via email. Tom Devine has experience in sourcing funding for such events and will work on this.

**First Holy Communion** – Barbara reported that the first group of children made their First Confession yesterday, 5th March, and that all had gone well with Fr Nicholas being friendly and welcoming. The second group will make their First Confession next Saturday 12th March.

#### Confirmation

Bishop David will come to Christ the King on the evening of Tuesday 5th July to confirm the candidates. Katherine reported that the current 10 candidates were getting on well with the course and were about halfway through. In addition, there were 6 older candidates whose Confirmation had been postponed from last year due to the pandemic. Sessions for them were being held on some Saturday mornings. About 12 candidates are going on a retreat organised by NYMO at Milton Keynes on the weekend of 14th May. They would like to use the church minibus to transport them and Nigel asked Katherine to email him with a formal booking.

Katherine was asked to include her email address in the parish newsletter so that she could be contacted with any enquiries about next year's Confirmation course starting in September.

**Pope Francis – Synodal Church** – Rosemary Langley reported that she and Sr Dymrna had attended a meeting where the feedback about the Catholic Church had been very positive.

#### Second Collections and CAFOD

Apart from the CAFOD Family Fast Day in Lent, there was just one second collection in the next few weeks which was on Good Friday for the Holy Land Shrines.

The CAFOD Soup Frugal Lunch was confirmed as being on the 5th Friday in Lent, 1st April at 12.45 pm, the change of date from 25th March previously announced being due to the clash with the Vintage Tea.

#### Altar Servers/Curtain Behind Altar

Trisha Baxter gave a brief update on the vestments. Her concerns about use one after the other by two teams of servers had eased somewhat. She was, however, concerned that the vestments were not being hung up tidily after the Latin Mass, although one of the adult servers had done this today. Trish was also concerned about taking away cassocks to wash that might be needed by the Latin Mass servers. She said that she had taken the names out of those not being currently used and that they were available for the Latin Mass. Fr Nicholas suggested that these be kept in a separate area from those used by the 10.30 Mass servers.

#### Cadets of Mary and Suzy's Vegetables

Suzy gave an update on the Cadets of Mary.

- a) She was finding that meeting on Saturday mornings was proving unsuccessful, as the parents were not always able to bring their children. She proposed to change the time of the meetings to Sunday after the 10.30 am Mass as soon as possible.
- b) Suzy also proposed that the Cadets have a simple, inexpensive uniform so that they can identify themselves as Cadets of Mary, probably different coloured T-shirts.

- c) Suzy also reported that planting of various crops such as beetroot and rhubarb is again taking place.
- d) Suzy reported that a hot meal is being provided once a month at Florence Ball House, Bedford Hospital North Wing, thus creating a link between the church and her work in the NHS.
- e) Finally Suzy admitted to her DRB having expired and stressed the need for all involved with working with children to get this done if necessary. She would welcome more adult volunteers who would need this check.

### **SVP**

Ursula informed the meeting that the Knock and Drop scheme based at St Philip and St James was to end on 31 March. Help would still be available to those needing it and requests should be made to Fr Nicholas or Liz Duggan in the first instance.

### **Come and See (RCIA)**

Ursula reported that a 17-year old boy and a young mother were under instruction and would be received into the Church at Easter.

### **Finance**

Chris Brookes will be making an appeal for increased giving in two weeks' time. He reported that the Diocese is tightening up on procedures including financial ones and that he was required to submit a budget, which he had already done. This was simply formalising the 'income and expenditure' sheet which he had produced for a number of years. The budget contained a forecast that our expenditure would exceed our income by around £10,000 this year, which did not include the cost of maintenance of drains and roofs. He stressed that this should not be a cause for alarm, as "God will provide" and that best solutions for the expenditure were being sought.

### **Minibus**

Nigel reported that four bookings had been made for this month with donations of £200 being made. For the minibus to break even, donations of £1000 a year are needed and this £200 represents a good start.

### **Lent Course**

Rosemarie once again drew attention to the Ecumenical Lent Course which is being held every Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm during Lent at London Road Methodist Church.

### **Tables in Patrick Donegan Room**

The broken tables in the Patrick Donegan room had been replaced by lightweight ones from the hall. The table which had been repaired was now on the stage in the hall, but had broken again and would be disposed of.

### **Fr Pius**

Fr Pius has been called to a congregation in London, who will decide where he is assigned next. We wish him well.

### **Church and Hall amplification systems**

The Easter draw has now been organised to raise funds for the hall. In addition, Katherine reported that there was a substantial ringfenced sum in the parish account donated by the national Legion of Mary, representing a share of proceeds from the sale of a property in London. It had been stipulated that this be used for evangelization and to promote devotion to Our Lady. Katherine felt that the church amplification system fulfilled both these criteria. Chris on behalf of the Finance Committee agreed to research possible contractors. Nigel suggested that they be asked to look at the hall system at the same time. He will liaise with Marguerita about this.

Trisha reported not being able to hear Fr Nicholas when he was behind the altar and it was suggested that he be provided with a lapel mike.

### **Help with refreshments after 10.30 am Mass**

Currently Sue and Myriam provide refreshments each week and further volunteers would be welcome to take a turn.

### **Pushchairs in the church aisles**

Michael Mangan as Health and Safety Officer reported that pushchairs were being left in the aisles and represented an obstruction, and that those using them should be asked to move them to a safer place, possibly at the back of the church. Myriam emphasized the need to remain polite and friendly with such requests so as not to appear unwelcoming. Chris Brookes was asked to formulate an announcement for both English and Latin Masses to this effect and to liaise with Marguerita about the latter. The announcement would also appear in the newsletter.

### **Kerala Community**

Katherine spoke positively about the Kerala community's presence at the church, but pointed out that their property was beginning to spread in the choir loft, e.g. the amplification system taking up bench space and there being two empty cupboards with boxes of books on top of them. Fr Nicholas will mention this to their leader.

### **Rosary for the Ukraine**

Teresa suggested that those attending weekday Mass in this coming week say the Rosary for the situation in the Ukraine afterwards. As there is no Mass this Tuesday, she suggested meeting in church at 10.30 am to do this.

### **Donations for the Ukraine**

Rachel drew attention for the need for bedding and other emergency supplies and that she had some items she could donate. Sue reported that these could be handed in at the Dom Polski Club near Bedford station.

Fr Nicholas closed in prayer.

**Date of next meeting – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022**