

Parish Gathering – Sunday 3rd April 2022

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

Fr Nicholas opened in prayer.

CAFOD

Nigel reported that there had been several fundraising events in the past few weeks including the Sponsored Walk and the Frugal Lunch (£123). The final total raised will be given in the newsletter.

Social Committee

Sue gave an update.

- a) Afternoon Vintage Tea – a good attendance of 40 people was reported on 25th March with a profit of £150. Rachel commented later in the meeting about the high quality of the refreshments. The next Vintage Tea is on Friday 22nd April.
- b) The Golden Friendship Club is planning a trip to Wimpole Hall at the end of April.
- c) The Platinum Jubilee “car park street party” will take place on Thursday 2nd June. A quieter area for those who want this will be provided in the hall. Cars will need to be parked away from the main church car park, e.g. at the Bunyan Centre. Volunteers to form a committee will be needed. No funding seems to be forthcoming and so a tombola will be organised on the day to cover costs of the event. Rachel suggested that Gallone’s be invited to bring their ice cream again and she will speak to them.

Volunteers

It is felt that ‘fresh blood’ is needed in a number of areas, including money counters, choir, minibus driving and gardening. After Easter a “volunteers’ weekend” will be organised to address this with people available to take names of volunteers after each Mass, including the Latin Masses.

Church Cleaning

It was reported that at present church cleaning is being undertaken by Katherine and Marguerita with two further volunteers from the Latin Mass congregation. A ‘big clean’ will need to be done before Easter and Nigel volunteered to email Katherine about this and possibly ask for volunteers in next weekend’s newsletter.

Church Flowers

Normally a second collection for these is taken, but it was thought that Teresa Lovell had said this would not be necessary this year. Nigel offered to check with Teresa (NB – confirmed after the meeting that no collection needed).

Easter Raffle

The hamper of chocolate and other prizes were on display. Nigel asked that money and unsold tickets be returned as soon as possible as the draw will take place two weeks from today.

First Holy Communion – Barbara reported that the spring term ended today and the summer term will start on 24th April. Not all the children are attending Mass regularly, although the class was changed from Saturday to Sunday to encourage this. It is difficult with so many children to keep track on Mass attendance. Chris reported that one family, who had come from another parish in Bedford so their child could join the class, now intend to stay at Christ the King.

Confirmation

Bishop David will come to Christ the King on the evening of Tuesday 5th July to confirm the candidates from the parish and also on Sunday 19th June to confirm candidates from the Latin Mass community.

Pope Francis – Synodal Church – Rosemary Langley reported that the scheduled meeting yesterday had been postponed due to COVID and has been rescheduled for 21st May.

A number of small groups met, a summary of their discussions has been sent to the Diocese and will be published on the parish website and on the notice board for reading and follow-up.

Altar Servers/Curtain Behind Altar

Tricia will collect the servers’ vestments this Wednesday to wash and return for Palm Sunday.

She reported that she and Kevin had gone to the church yesterday to veil the crucifix with the purple backdrop, but found the Kerala community holding their service. She and Kevin had not been aware this was taking place, as it had not been listed in the newsletter. It was explained that this is a regular booking on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 10 am – 2 pm, therefore this situation will arise again on Holy Saturday. It was therefore agreed that the backdrop would be changed after the Good Friday liturgy and also the flower arranging would be done at this time. It was suggested that Tricia check the diary with Liz to see if the church is in use on the six or seven times a year when the backdrop needs to be changed.

Times of Easter Services

These were agreed as follows:

Maundy Thursday 7.30 pm

Good Friday 3 pm

Holy Saturday 6 pm (family Mass with social distancing) and 10 pm (Easter Vigil)

Easter Sunday 8.30 am (Latin), 10.30 am (English) and 12.30 pm (Latin)

SVP

Ursula reported that the required annual statistics had been collated and sent to SVP headquarters. There are currently 6 active members of the SVP in the parish and between them, they had given 2400 hours of service in the year 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022. Rachel was in the process of becoming an auxiliary member of the SVP.

Come and See (RCIA)

Ursula reported. A 17-year old young man would make his First Holy Communion and be confirmed at the Easter Vigil.

Finance

Chris Brookes had made his appeal, with a positive response. As expected, a deficit budget had been submitted to the Diocese as noted in last month's minutes. No response had been received as yet.

Minibus

Nigel reported that there were two trips in March plus a private booking from Myriam, and that two trips were planned in April, a Golden Friendship trip to Wimpole Hall and a trip organised by Rosemarie to the Julian Shrine at Norwich. Seats were still available for the latter and should be booked through Rosemarie.

There is only a small pool of drivers for the minibus and the appeal for volunteers could include this.

Children/Youth

Teresa W commented that not much was currently being organised for the children/youth of the parish. Use of the minibus for this would involve DRB checks etc. Again, shortage of volunteers is an issue.

Wixams

Several people had become aware of the existence of around 8 Catholics in the retirement homes at Wixams who would like the opportunity either to come to Mass at Christ the King as their parish, or to have a priest visit to say Mass. The best way forward was discussed. It was thought feasible to bring them to Mass in the minibus once a month, and for Fr Nicholas to say a Sunday afternoon Mass at Wixams also once a month, the two arrangements alternating. Rosemarie reported that the Anglican priest already holds a Communion service there on a Wednesday and that it should be possible to see if we can use the same room at a different time. Fr Nicholas and Sr Dympna agreed to discuss this with the management of the retirement home.

Church and Hall amplification systems

It was confirmed that Legion of Mary funds as noted in the minutes from the March meeting would be used to renew the church amplification system. The Easter draw will subsidise the new amplification system in the hall. Marguerita had reported that a sound specialist had visited to look at the systems in both the church and in the hall and that a quote was awaited.

COVID arrangements

The Saturday 6 pm Mass remains socially distanced. Although there are no longer stewards directing the Communion line, Fr Nicholas continues to distribute Holy Communion wearing a face shield and from the prie-dieu, and this arrangement will continue for the time being.

Second Collections and CAFOD

The only second collection in April will be on Good Friday for the Holy Places.

In May there will be second collections on the 8th for the Diocesan Priests' Training Fund and on the 29th for Catholic Media via the Diocese.

Any other business

Christ the King will be hosting a gathering of priests on 11th May, for which Nigel and Sue are catering.

The Parish Penitential Service is on Friday 8th April at 7 pm followed by Stations of the Cross at 7.30 pm as usual.

Date of next meeting

8th May 2022 (postponed from 1st May due to the Bank Holiday weekend)

Fr Nicholas closed in prayer.