

Parish Gathering – Sunday 8th May 2022

Chaired by Chris Brookes – Also present Fr Nicholas Nwanzi - Notes by Barbara Kay - 20 parishioners present

Fr Nicholas opened in prayer.

CAFOD

Nothing to report.

Social Committee

Barbara read out an update written by Sue:

Plans are coming together for our HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration on Thursday 2nd June, 2 - 5pm. We have invited the Mayor and MP to attend and have written to the Queen on behalf of the parish. But we need helpers - Opoku is trying to source a BBQ but we will need cooks on the day. Hilary reported knowing of a potential BBQ we could borrow. People can also bring a picnic. We are offering free tea, coffee, squash and jelly but Gallones ice cream will be there as well as drinks available over the bar. GFC are running a Tombola so needs lots of small prizes. Rachel is running a Raffle so we need raffle prizes. These can be left on her doorstep at 146 London Road. We will need help to set up and decorate from 11 am and also help to clear down afterwards. We have booked an entertainer from 3 - 3.45 pm, but need other people to volunteer to sing and entertain. We are holding a best crown competition and a cake fit for the Queen competition so get your thinking hats on.

Barbara will add an item about volunteers for the Jubilee celebrations to the parish newsletter

Volunteers

As raised at the last meeting, it is felt that 'fresh blood' is needed in a number of areas, including money counters, choir, minibus driving and gardening. Barbara will add an item about general volunteers to the parish newsletter

Church Cleaning

The 'big clean' before Easter was duly done.

Church Flowers

Everyone felt that the church had looked beautiful for Easter.

Easter Raffle

The draw had taken place on Easter Sunday as scheduled with a good amount of money raised.

First Holy Communion – Barbara reported that the last class for Group A took place this morning and the last class for Group B was next Sunday, with the Communion Masses taking place on 22nd May, 29th May and 5th June. Support from parents had been good this year. 17 children have already been signed up for the class starting in the autumn.

Confirmation

Bishop David will come to Christ the King on Tuesday 5th July at 7 pm to confirm the parish candidates.

Pope Francis – Synodal Church

No feedback from the Diocese has been received to date.

Altar Servers/Curtain Behind Altar

Tricia reported that a new server, Joseph, had joined the team and his cassock had been duly labelled. She asked Fr Nicholas if the gold curtain could be left up until after the Feast of Corpus Christi (19th June). This would mean that it would be there for all three First Holy Communion Masses. This was agreed.

SVP

Nothing to report.

Come and See (RCIA)

Vidmantas was confirmed at Easter. Ursula reported that Sandra, an adult in the parish, had enrolled to prepare for her First Holy Communion, starting this autumn.

Finance

Nothing to report. The next Finance Committee meeting is in 10 days' time.

Minibus

Trips are taking place. As raised at the last meeting, there is only a small pool of drivers for the minibus and the appeal for volunteers could include this. Hilary offered her services.

Children/Youth

It was agreed that more needed to be organised for the children/youth of the parish. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Wixams

Fr Nicholas and Sister Dympna had visited Wixams recently. The response to holding a Mass in the residents' hall had not been encouraging and they had been asked to use the village hall instead. Trisha reminded us that Fr Patrick Hutton had held Masses at the village hall at Wixams with a generally poor response from the residents and the Masses had eventually ceased.

Church and Hall amplification systems

A proposal and quote have now been obtained in the region of £9000, this being a professional job sponsored by Legion of Mary funds as noted earlier.

COVID arrangements

Chris commented that gradually fewer people were wearing face coverings at the 10.30 am Mass. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Trisha commented that a young family this morning had used the choir loft when there was plenty of space in the body of the church, with distraction to the choir and the attendant hazard of the steep stairs. It was suggested that families with small children needing 'crawling space' use the Lady Chapel. Barbara will mention this in next week's newsletter.

Second Collections and CAFOD

The second collection today (8th May) was for the Diocesan Priests' Training Fund and on the 29th it will be for Catholic Media via the Diocese.

Any other business

- Myriam and a team of helpers will now be hosting the Deanery Lunch on 11th May.
- Tricia reported a 'near miss' last Sunday around 10 am with an unsupervised small child playing in the road outside the Patrick Donegan room. Chris will take this up with Michael Mangan as Health and Safety Officer.
- Pentecost – 5th June: National costumes will be encouraged, prayers in different languages will be coordinated by Nigel, Hilary/Trisha will liaise about the use of musical instruments at the 10.30 am Mass and the Gospel will be 'brought forward' in procession.
- There was a reminder about Fr Nicholas's 50th birthday gathering after the 10.30 am Mass next Sunday 15th May.

Date of next meeting

12th June 2022 (postponed from 5th June because of Pentecost and First Holy Communion Mass). Hilary offered to take the minutes in Barbara's absence.

Fr Nicholas closed in prayer.