

Parish Gathering – Sunday 2nd October 2022
Chaired by Nigel Anstead, notes by Barbara Kay
40 people present

Fr Nicholas opened in prayer.

A presentation was made to Barbara Kay for her work as First Holy Communion catechist over many years.

1. Social Committee

The Golden Friendship Club's trip to Cromer End of the Pier Show on 9th September was cancelled due to problems with the programme following the Queen's death. Trip re scheduled for 22nd September.

Unfortunately the Barn Dance due to take place on 1st October had had to be postponed due to the caller having COVID. It will be rearranged after Christmas.

The Community Hub Drop-In Centre will run on October 6th. Sue will be away on that day; unfortunately Rosemarie is now unable to help due to illness. Another volunteer is needed from 10 – 12 and they were asked to speak to Valerie after the meeting.

The next Vintage Tea is on 28th October.

The Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday 26th November. Previous stallholders will be contacted to see if they would like to take part again.

The annual Macmillan Coffee Morning will take place on Sunday 9th October 9 am – 12 pm. Donations of homemade cakes were invited.

The funeral of the Marsala family takes place on Tuesday 4th October and the offertory will be divided between two charities chosen by the family: 1) The Road Victims Trust and 2) MacMillan Primrose Unit, Bedford Hospital.

The minibus had been used three times in September, for trips to Hunstanton, Cromer and Dobbies Garden Centre. More drivers are needed for future bookings.

2. First Holy Communion

Liz Duggan and her daughter Mechelle have taken on the First Holy Communion programme along with Hilary Wrack and Teresa Williams. 55 children enrolled last Sunday and there may be more. There will be a Parents' Meeting on Thursday 6th October and the children will be officially initiated into the programme at the 10.30 am Mass on Sunday 9th October.

3. Confirmation

A few enrolment forms have come in. Katherine will deal with these on her return from holiday.

4. Cadets of Our Lady

No report.

5. Screens in church

Nigel had spoken to Tom Devine, who will make the application for funding from the Diocese. Fr Nicholas felt it important that we incorporate modern technology into our worship of God and assured those who were concerned about the positioning of the screens that they would not be placed in the sanctuary.

6. Synod Process

Sister Dympna had provided sheets giving more details in church and also brought a supply to the last meeting. 12 responses had been received, which she did not feel was sufficient to act upon. A further push will be made in the newsletter next week and it will be announced at both Masses.

7. Church Notice Boards

Marion and Michael Mangan offered to take on the responsibility of refreshing the notice boards and removing out of date notices monthly.

8. Second Collections for October

CAFOD Family Fast Day on Fri 7th October with collections on 8th/9th October, and one for Missio on 22nd/23rd October.

9. Church PA System

Marguerita reported a delay in obtaining parts to start work on this and she will chase this.

10. Altar Servers

McKenny Ndifor and two of the senior servers spoke about their role. They shared concerns about the need to recruit new servers as the older ones left to go to university, as sometimes a full serving team is not available. There is the need to train recruits, by having them watch what is going on before going onto the sanctuary. Jon Duah was thanked for his help with training. It was emphasised that servers should have made their First Holy Communion, and that they should not be too small in size.

It was noted that there are currently no servers at the Saturday 6 pm Mass, and that John Grogan does some of their duties.

It was agreed that an appeal for more servers – both children and adults – should be made.

Trisha reported that the servers' vestments were in good order at present.

11. Health and Safety

Chris Brookes reported that due to a further incident with a child, the decision had been made to block the four gaps in the hedge on the left-hand side of the car park. Michael Mangan will undertake this work and this matter will be discussed separately after this morning's meeting.

12. Church Grounds and Gardening

Chris reported that Jomex, a member of the Kerala community, had weeded the beds by the presbytery and under the church windows, and had erected small picket fences in front of the latter. He has also cleared the area around the metal frame by the entrance so that once again banners can be hung there. He is happy to look after the roses going forward. He was thanked for his work. Martin continues with his hedge trimming and lawn mowing and was also thanked for his work.

13. Parish Finances

Chris reported that we are covering costs. From Monday 3rd October, Christ the King would be undergoing a parish audit. This takes place once every 4 – 5 years and Chris felt it was a useful exercise to document our current financial position.

Chris also reported on what was thought to be a leak in the hall roof. This had turned out to be condensation caused by the plastic lining. Though it had left unsightly marks, it was not harmful and therefore would be left. Likewise the three blocked church drains would not cause any problems and would be left.

14. SVP

Ursula thanked the parish for the good response to the appeal held last weekend.

Sr Dympna will contact the Wixams Retirement Village to arrange a further Mass after the recent successful one there.

Fr Nicholas also reported an attendance of 50 when he had said Mass at the Anglican church in Keysoe recently.

15. Come and See

This will start again on 3rd October with two definite starters and potentially four others.

16. Christmas Masses

Six parishioners had approached Fr Nicholas asking that the Midnight Mass this year be English as per agreement made last year with the Latin Mass congregation that the Midnight Masses alternate. Barbara pointed out that the Latin Midnight Mass had already been agreed in writing between Fr Nicholas and Fr Goddard of the FSSP. Fr Nicholas confirmed this. Some discussion followed, but Fr Nicholas's decision stood and he suggested that anyone wishing to go to Mass at midnight should attend the Latin Mass.

17. AOB

Liz explained the need to use the hall for the First Holy Communion class on Sunday mornings from 9.00 – 10.15 approximately once every three weeks. With so many FHC children it was impossible to get them all together in any place other than the hall. This would mean that the Latin Mass congregation would be unable to use the hall for tea and coffee on those Sundays, the dates of which will be notified well in advance. Fr Nicholas agreed with this decision.

Date of next meeting

Sunday 6th November after 10.30am Mass.

Fr Nicholas ended the meeting with a prayer.