

Parish Gathering – Sunday 4th June 2023
Chaired by Nigel Anstead, notes by Barbara Kay
25 people present

1. Fr Dariusz opened in prayer.

2. Social Committee report

Easter raffle/Coronation Event Sue reported a profit of £948.50 from the Easter Raffle. This, together with a £500 Community Chest grant, had covered the costs of the Coronation Event, enabling us to provide a free event for the whole local community. 2 local councillors attended. A spreadsheet of the costs is available if anyone would like to see it.

Vintage Teas Myriam, who organises these, reported that around £1000 per year is raised for church funds from the Teas.

Community Hub Thursday 1st June 25 people had come, the best number to date.

Refreshments after 11 am Sunday Mass Sue reported that only two or three people were now helping with this and that from now on, unless there were at least two people on any one Sunday, refreshments would not be served.

Minibus A number of bookings have been received for this year and running costs are being covered.

Golden Friendship Club Marion reported that there are now about 35 regular members. There is a Fish and Chip meal in the coming week and a Summer Lunch on 22nd June.

January Quiz This had made a profit of £800 which Rachel, who organised the event, had requested be put towards improved lighting in the church grounds. A trial of a solar-powered spotlight had been very successful and so a row of these will be installed along the path to the church.

3. First Holy Communion report

Liz reported that the First Holy Communion Masses will take place on Sundays 11th, 18th and 25th June. She had a list of which date the children were making their Communion as some of their Prayer Partners had asked about this. Liz and Mechelle were thanked for their work in preparing the children for their Communion this year.

4. **Confirmation report** No report. The Confirmation will take place on Tuesday 27th June in the evening.

5. Cadets of Our Lady report

Suzy gave a report. The Cadets are praying at home, but from the last Saturday in June and monthly thereafter will become involved in cooking, sewing and hairdressing events which will be open to the community, those with mental health problems being particularly welcome. A hall has been offered free of charge for this to take place. Vegetables grown in the grounds of the church will be used in the cooking. The Cadets' activities will be shown on a notice board at the back of the hall.

6. Church calendar for the month ahead

Day for Life – 17th/18th June for which there will be a second collection.

7. Altar servers, altar linen and altar curtain

Trisha introduced herself to Fr Dariusz and explained her role in looking after the fabrics and vestments. The gold curtain behind the altar would normally be exchanged for green tomorrow as we are now in Ordinary Time, but the custom at Christ the King is to keep the gold curtain for Corpus Christi on 11th June, which this year also coincides with the first of the First Holy Communion Masses.

8. Safeguarding

There was no report, but Nigel said that a number of DBS checks had now been redone.

9. **Church flowers** No report.

10. Church grounds and gardening

Barbara reported that Martin continues to mow the lawns and trim the hedges as necessary on a voluntary basis. He was thanked for his work. Fr Dariusz feels there is still a lot of hedge trimming that needs to be done before the Bishop comes for the Confirmation service later this month.

11. Church cleaning

Nigel reported that cleaning has become rather 'hit and miss' as there is no longer a regular slot for doing this; it was previously 10 am on a Saturday morning but this slot was sometimes used by the Kerala community for services. These have now moved to a Sunday evening so this slot may be free again. This will be discussed with Fr Richard when he arrives. Nigel also reported finding crumbs on the floor again and a reminder will be put in the newsletter asking families who feed their children in church to clear up after themselves.

12. Church grounds works and safety

No report.

13. Parish finances

No report. Christine reported under AOB that all was going well and thanked members of the parish for their financial and practical contributions.

14. SVP report

No report. There is to be an SVP Pilgrimage to Walsingham. There was some confusion about who was organising the coach for this and Sr Dympna will contact Mary Frost at Holy Child and St Joseph's to sort this out. Details of how to book a seat on the coach will be put in the newsletter as soon as it is known.

15. Come and See

No report.

16. Liturgy Committee report

The Committee had met on 1st June and decided to defer any changes until the arrival of Fr Richard. Liz drew attention to the Bedford Pastoral Area Council Afternoon of Prayer and Reflection at Christ the King on 1st July and encouraged people to attend so it is well supported.

17. Future monthly meetings

Nigel felt that a monthly meeting was too frequent and that a quarterly meeting might be better. He also reported that he was unable to chair the meetings in July and August due to umpiring commitments. He therefore suggested that the next meeting be in September, by which time Fr Richard will have arrived and will decide how he wishes to proceed going forward; he may wish to form a parish council.

18. Any Other Business

Fr Richard's arrival Fr Dariusz reported that Fr Richard's first Sunday would be 20th August.

Church Banner This will welcome people to the church and be hung from the existing framework. It was felt best to leave the production of this until Fr Richard arrives so that he can decide on the wording.

Trainline The parish had been approached by this organisation which offers discounted fares, to see if we would be prepared to include a link on our website. The view was put forward that it was not appropriate for us to be advertising commercial companies.

Diocesan Assembly This is scheduled for 15th July. The delegates from Christ the King are Hilary, Katherine, Aubiane and Lynne. They should have registered and attended meetings. There is also a series of webinars starting on 12th June.

Cleaning Marie returned to this subject and proposed that each of the groups using the church – parish organisations, Kerala community, Latin Mass community – should take a turn to clean, perhaps once a month if there are four groups. There was a discussion about whether cleaning should always be at a fixed time and take priority over everything else, or whether each group should find a time convenient to themselves to do the cleaning. It was agreed that the various groups be contacted and this proposal put forward.

Hilary reported that she would be moving to Liverpool over the summer and that therefore this would be her last parish meeting. She expressed her thanks to everyone in the parish for their support over the last two and a half years.

19. Date of next meeting

To be arranged once Fr Richard has started as Parish Priest.

Fr Dariusz ended the meeting with a prayer.