

Parish Gathering – Sunday 10th September 2023

Present: Fr Richard Aladics (Parish Priest), Nigel Anstead (Chair), Barbara Kay (Minutes)

40 parishioners present

1. Fr Richard opened in prayer.
2. **Apologies for absence** - Chris and Ursula Brookes, Teresa Lovell
3. **Welcome and opening remarks**

Fr Richard welcomed all present to the meeting and thanked the parish for the warm welcome he had been given. He explained that only the Finance Committee operates in the absence of a permanent Parish Priest and that he was gradually getting to know how the various parish functions work. He will then decide how to proceed going forward.
4. **Social Committee report**

Community Hub Sue explained that Christ the King merely hosts this event which is organised by an NHS Prescriber. 158 people had come on Thursday 7th September and 11 organisations were present. Rachel, Rosemarie and Valerie were thanked for their assistance.

Christmas Fayre This would take place on Saturday 25th November. Sue would be emailing all previous stallholders this week to see if they would like to take part again this year. The Grand Christmas Draw would be launched in late October with a first prize of £200 and a second prize of £100, so a good volume of ticket sales is necessary.

Golden Friendship Club Marion reported that there are now 38 regular members. They had had a Fish and Chip meal recently and a day out is planned.

Vintage Teas Myriam, who organises these, reported that after a break in August, the next Vintage Tea would take place on Friday 22nd September.
5. **Cadets of Our Lady**

Suzy reported that the Cadets had not met at the church since COVID, but their parents had been contacted to keep the momentum going. Vegetables were being grown in the parish grounds and the allotment. Chutney was available to sample today and Suzy will bring different products to each meeting with donations invited.

Suzy also informed the meeting that today was National Suicide Prevention Day and that as a Mental Health Nurse as well as her connections with the Legion of Mary, she would be willing to help anyone with mental health issues.
6. **Church calendar for the month ahead**

Home Mission Sunday – 17th September for which there will be a second collection. CAFOD Family Fast Day is on Friday 6th October.

The formal induction process for Fr Richard as Parish Priest was outlined. This is instigated by the Vicar General, Mgr Michael Harrison, and carried out by the Dean, Fr John Danford. This will take the form of a Mass on a weekday evening in late September or early October. Fr John Danford is currently on leave and arrangements will be discussed on his return.
7. **Sunday Mass time**

Nigel outlined the history of the change of the Sunday Mass time from 10.30 am to 11 am with just 7 days notice under Fr Nicholas. Fr Richard explained that Sunday Mass times were under the provision of the Bishop, and that a 'process' is needed to take place for any changes. This involves the Bishop through the Dean and will be raised at the Deanery meeting later this month and after consultation, a decision made and implemented by the end of October. The Sunday Mass times of all the churches in the area need to be taken into consideration so that people have choices as to where and when they attend Mass.

The question of whether there should be one Latin Mass at 8.30 am as pre-COVID was raised. Fr Richard explained that the Latin Mass Chaplaincy had been erected by the Bishop and asked if this matter had been raised either by him or by the Fraternity of St Peter. This not being the case, the matter will be dealt with by the Bishop and the priests of the Fraternity.
8. **Altar servers and altar curtain, altar linen**

Trisha explained her role in looking after the fabrics including the curtain behind the altar, which is changed according to liturgical season. She will check the timing with Fr Richard as necessary. Trisha also repairs and launders the servers' vestments. She is currently the only person doing this and would appreciate some help. Teresa Williams is responsible for laundering the altar linen and is now the only remaining person doing so. Again more help would be appreciated.
9. **Safeguarding** - There was no report in Dale Bunting-Gray's absence.
10. **Church flowers**

Teresa Lovell had sent her apologies, but she was thanked for the sterling work she does week by week single-handed.
11. **Church cleaning**

Nigel reported that there had been a reasonable response to the appeal for cleaning teams. The Latin Mass community has supplied a team of 4, and there are two teams from the English Mass, one regular, one slightly less so. The Kerala community take their turn once a month after their 5 pm Sunday Mass. There was a fifth team comprising last year's First

Holy Communion parents, but this has now disbanded. Nigel therefore suggested that the four existing teams are moved onto a 4 week cycle. Nigel will arrange a new cleaning rota.

12. Church grounds and gardening

Barbara reported that Martin has been busy recently with two carpentry projects. One of these is now complete and the second one will be finished tomorrow. He is aware there is a lot to do and weather permitting, will start again this coming Wednesday. He was thanked for his efforts

13. Church grounds works and safety

Michael Mangan reported that there are a number of projects to do which are awaiting the approval of the Finance Committee. Since the last parish meeting in June, lighting had been put up along the path by the church and this is very successful. Rachel drew attention to a dark spot near Our Lady's statue where lighting would be helpful. Michael will discuss this with Chris Brookes.

Liz drew attention to the fact that the Papal flag had become draped around one of the lights and Suzy felt this might be a fire hazard. It was suggested that anyone noticing this should pull down the flag to release it. If this is a persistent problem, it may be necessary to move the light as this would be much easier than moving the flagpole.

Fr Richard reported a loose panel in the roof of the presbytery where squirrels were entering and nesting. This has now been blocked.

14. Parish finances

Christine thanked the parish for their ongoing support. There are several upcoming expenses relating to Health and Safety matters and to the refurbishment of the presbytery.

15. Liturgy Committee report

Sr Dympna outlined the purpose of the Liturgy Committee, which is to plan ahead short-term and long-term for the various liturgical events on the calendar. She will meet with Fr Richard to discuss the future of this committee. Sr Dympna also drew our attention to the Season of Creation in September/October, which the Pope has asked us to focus on.

16. Future monthly meetings

Nigel felt that a monthly meeting was too frequent and that a quarterly meeting might be better. It was felt that this was too wide an interval and that a compromise would be to hold meetings bi-monthly, still on the first Sunday of the month. The next parish gathering will therefore take place on Sunday 5th November after 11am (or possibly, 10.30am) Mass.

17. Any Other Business

- a) **Church Banner** Rosemarie Langley felt that a bolder welcome to the church was needed and had started looking at banners. The existing scaffolding could be used for this and would allow a banner measuring 10' x 2'6". The design of this was discussed. Rachel felt it important that the wording be in different languages. Nigel felt the wording needed to be bold and simple. Teresa Williams suggested inviting the children to contribute. The banner will need to be of strong material so that it is durable and does not blow away in strong winds. Rosemarie will do some further research and take her findings to Fr Richard. Alternative signage was suggested by enlarging the existing notice board near the main door. General advertising of the church was discussed. Many people search on line for a Catholic church and Christ the King's website connections are very good. It was pointed out, however, that older people may not use the internet and therefore publicity such as the banner remain important.
- b) **Socially distanced Masses** Fr Richard stated that these were no longer required. This led to revisiting the question about the continuation of the 12.30 Latin Mass which was added during Covid as a socially distanced Mass. After further discussion it was agreed that as under item 7, this was a matter to be dealt with by the Bishop and the FSSP.
- c) **CAFOD Rep**
Nigel is currently helping out with the email side of this, but a volunteer to take this on would be appreciated.
- d) **Food Bank**
Teresa currently takes the food collected at church to a central point. Rosemarie offered to help with this. Myriam collects donations in cash for the foodbank.
- e) **Distribution of Holy Communion**
There was a discussion on the best way to administer Holy Communion to those unable to get to the front, particularly as to whether Communion should be given to them before the rest of the congregation, or after. It was thought that the latter was preferable. The onus is on both the Extraordinary Ministers and the priest to look out for those who need this facility.
- f) **First Holy Communion Programme 2023-24**
Someone asked about enrolment. Liz and Mechelle are discussing the programme with Fr Richard.
- g) **Parish Council**
Rachel asked that consideration be given to the formation of a Parish Council to ensure that decisions are made democratically. This will be revisited.

18. Date of next meeting - Sunday 5th November at 12.15 pm or 11.45pm if the time of Mass is changed.

Fr Richard ended the meeting with a prayer.