

## Parish Forum – Sunday 3rd March 2024

Chaired by Hilary Wrack  
Notes by Rachel Kirkham  
Attended by Fr Richard

1) New Chairperson:

Chris Brookes proposed but Ursula in attendance stated on this behalf that 'he was too busy to be able to take up the position.

No decision re this post made, suggestions to panel on paper provided.

2) New Secretary:

No Candidates. Again proposals submitted on paper.

3) Day of Meeting:

Sunday, all agreed best day for the "Forum".

4) Finance Committee:

This had been relaunched. A Gift Aid Coordinator required, Celia stated more Counters needed.

5) Lena/ Hilary:

Fr Richard keen to know that all groups in the parish, this a continuation of Pope Francis' call for us to take responsibility for our parish - "What would you like enhanced in the parish. Community is important, how important community was and said to the body of the hall do and can do for the parish re organising the hall, singing, refreshments etc. Continued in A.O.B.

6) The Liturgy Coordinating group relaunched:

Next meeting : 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 @ 19:00 in Patrick Donegan Room.

Fr Richard stressed importance of contacting people from and for different ministries. Planning in hand for Holy Week. Fr Richard said Committee would meet twice a year & plan (Sept. - New Year) and (New Year to Pentecost).

Also needed people to coordinate children's Liturgy

7) New Social Events Team - Names were requested at the end of the meeting

8) Deanery Lenten Station:

Mass in Leighton Buzzard 11<sup>th</sup> March at 19:00. Parish needs to be represented. Fr Richard attending plus volunteer.

9) Diocesan Life In The Spirit Seminar Project:

Fr Richard spoke that this. Sequence of events for all to take part in. The Forum Centre the Cathedral with diocese hubs.

Dates 16/4 - 18/5. Duration two hours approximately. Christ the King to host our area and that "welcomers/greeters and general facilitators required. Volunteers see Fr Richard

Fr Richard enquired as to any technical equipment in the parish for example the projector John Smite said it was on top of the cupboard in the sacristy.

10) Lenten Frugal Lunch

Miriam will organise this but needs help, to be held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

## 11) Open Forum:

Hilary asked "what can you do for the Community"?

Emma spoke on the African community and how it has been and could be involved in the offertory etc.

Emma to form planning group. The Gospel Choir reintroduction.

Sister Dympna spoke on the recent synod held in the pastored areas.

Working group to produce a Booklet

A need to update the parish booklet

Sr Dympna mentioned Synod's aims of Communion, Participation and Mission

Emma mentioned the tradition of mentioning birthdays at Mass together with a blessing, anniversaries, feasts etc.

Linda said a need for coordination and planning. Support needs monitoring.

Teresa Willams, spoke of the annual CHISEN, Ghana Mass, which had been an annual event plus a 2<sup>nd</sup> collection.

Fr Richard said he/Finance committee looking into 2<sup>nd</sup> collections

Hilary Wrack to take on CAFOD responsibilities.

Matilda wished that the Christ the King Feast be celebrated with a Bring & Share lunch

Rosemarie asked for Richard what was happening regarding the Latin Mass? Richard said it was a "grey area", they were seeking a new home etc, they have to the summer to leave.

Trish requested help be the work le raising the seasonal curtain. Has aa pully system but needs 2 people to operate it.

Rachel spoke on subject of work due to be done on external lighting last year & for which £810 was raised at the fish & chip supper. A map of areas given to Fr Richard & one will be an addendum to these notes.

Money for January's has been banked for further parish needs (separate amount).

Rosemarie asked where was the minibus? Fr Richard said a parishioner had take it on for a fee (undeclared) and he (unnamed) for six months. Response that it was given to parish as a gift Liz Duggan said, Can't be used for and trips, schools, parish etc. till handed back.

### Vintage Tea:

Miriam would like to restart Vintage Tea but needs help.

### AOB:

Already covered in Open Forum

Meeting closed 13:10

### **Date of next meeting**

No date for next meeting set. (If it is monthly it could fall on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00). Message re this from RK on 4<sup>th</sup> March

## **BPAC Working Group 2 Minutes**

We met at Judy's house, 7 pm on 21/02/24

Present: Judy, Neil, Sr Dympna, Rosemary, Julie

### **The aim of our group: focusing on the Synodal Listening Programme: Communion, Participation and Mission**

1. We have completed a welcome booklet to share with the BPAC. The booklet aims to give ideas for making all the activities of a parish as relevant, accessible and meaningful as possible.
2. Continuing with the idea of making parishes more welcoming, we discussed the role of Welcomers:

#### **What does a Welcomer do?**

- Arrive before Mass, at least 30 minutes early
- Wear an identifying lanyard
- Be available to inform people of what is happening, who to speak to, where to go to if there is a query
- Hand out hymn books, Mass cards and newsletters
- Available to take Offertory Collections when needed
- Coordinate the offertory procession if needed
- Help out when people have needs or difficulties or become unwell
- Smile and greet everyone as they arrive, rather than engage in lengthy conversation with friends
- Collect books at the end of mass and tidy up

#### **3. Ideas for making a Parish more welcoming:**

- Special Sunday: everyone to wear a name badge at Mass as an opportunity to learn each other's names
- Multicultural food-sharing events
- Sign of Peace: Deacon or Priest suggests congregation speak to people nearby and share a piece of information (name, new years resolution, place of birth, plans for the day, etc)
- Lenten Lunch, rich man poor man meal for CAFOD
- The need to make funerals and weddings more meaningful for visitors, especially non Catholics. Service booklets rarely contain the words of the Mass and Mass booklets aren't necessarily given out

**Plan:** Julie to find information for Welcomers at her Parish (maybe we could all do this in our respective Parishes)

- All of us to ask friends, neighbours and fellow parishioners, what they would like to see as a more welcoming Parish and report back at our next meeting
- Ask how can funerals be more meaningful for new people in our own parishes and report back.

Next meeting: Thursday 18/04/24, 7 pm at Judy's house

Disabled  
Car park C

Church.



Map showing areas that  
need light or extra lighting  
for which money was raised  
headed over 2023. yet to  
be done.

- A. Lighting between exit from hall car park to side/back of Church
- B. Middle walkway between hedges & garden.
- C. Disabled car park.
- E. Extra lighting on Main Drive to church