

St. Joseph's Parish Council Meeting
Held in St. Joseph's Parish Hall – 9th September, 2007

Chairman: Fr. Ross Thompson. Twelve members attended. Apologies – Theresa Caddy

1. Fr. Ross welcomed Fr. Charlton and the Committee to the Meeting and opened it with a prayer.
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting - Taken as read.
3. Matters Arising:

Confirmation Candidates St. Joseph's has no Confirmation candidates this year. We had a large number for Confirmation two years ago. It has been proposed that in future all the churches should come together for one big ceremony. Next year this would probably be at Our Lady's, Acomb.

Garden Rota Fr. Ross said that this is working very well.

Repairs to the Presbytery. A new boiler has been installed and the increased efficiency of the new one meant that over a short time it would pay for itself. New curtain rails have been fitted. Some work has to be done on the building, water is coming through above the french windows, and the first courses of bricks are to be rebuilt, hopefully using some of the bricks from the kitchen and presbytery. A new garage door has been ordered as the present one is not secure.

Amelia House We are grateful to the Eucharistic Ministers who visit five Catholics every Friday. Twenty more residents have gone in this week and eventually there should be sixty – eighty people there.

Bowling Club So far we have had no volunteers to start it up. There was a very good social aspect to the club. A rota would be needed to put down the mats. A notice could go in the Bulletin asking for names of those who want to start up the Bowling Club

Eucharistic Ministers. We have one new Minister – Matthew Thomas, who will be part of the teams on Saturday evening.

Summer Fayre. It was felt that it was a success, and we were very lucky with the weather. Hilary said that Theresa had been very successful collating names and ringing people up, and there were more people at the stallholders meeting than we have ever had. There was a good atmosphere.

First Holy Communions – It was decided to carry on as we normally do. We can't be sure how many of the children who made their First Communion are still with us. Our Catechists will liaise with Fr. Charlton for the presentation of the Preparation Books to the children. Preparations will start after Christmas for next years First Communions.

4. Reports from the Organisations

Ladies Group – After the Summer Fayre is a quiet time, when the group get together mainly for social get-togethers. The next function will be the Apple Pie Supper in aid of the SVP.

The SVP. have ten members, who make sixteen to twenty visits a week. They are twinned with two parishes in India. A lot of the income of one of those parishes was lost because of the loss of fishing nets and equipment during the tsunami. The SVP funded a project, £640 over four years, which paid for new equipment. They had not had a social event this year, as it was thought important to let new members settle in. They had gratefully received £137.70p. from the plate left after Mary Hall's funeral. September is SVP awareness month. Posters will be put out, and leaflets provided which people can take home and reflect on.

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Children's Liturgy Nine children had been in the group this morning. The group are getting together a leaflet about the Children's Liturgy Group, and a suggestion was made about getting leaflets about the SVP, Ladies Group, etc.

5. Car Parking The Council would not object to parallel parking to the road, in the grounds. This would cost a lot of money, and is not worth the expense. Our concern had been complaints, but as there are so many other cars parked in Burdyke Avenue, and the Bus Company has not complained, it was felt this was not an issue. It is possible to park your car within 200 yards of the church.
6. Fund Raising. Details were given of the Quiz Night on the 27th September at 7.30 pm. David Henderson has agreed to be the Quiz Master, and Mary agreed to make some posters for this event. There was to be an Apple Pie Supper in aid of the SVP, which is usually well attended. We had been approached by St. Wilfrid's to do a joint evening with them, so we are having a Social Evening & Race Night on the 16th November in St. Joseph's Parish Hall. A small group from both Parishes is organising this. Details were given of the programme for the evening. Entrance with supper - £2. It is mainly a social evening to get the two parishes together, but it is a fund raising event as well. The fire service number is 150. We would need a form of radio mike for use in the hall – not a hand held one, we could also use it on Quiz Night. Picture Competition starts next week, £1 per entry. Roger was thanked for supplying the pictures and entry forms for the quiz. It finishes in early October. Christmas Fayre, this year is on the 1st December, and the hall is booked. Mary said she would be willing to organise a Children's Party again before Christmas. The Indian community were talking of having a social evening to celebrate 60 years of independence. Unfortunately our hall was booked so they held it at St. Luke's.
7. Any Other Business. There is a CAFOD Fast Day collection when Fr. Ross is away. The envelopes are given out, and collected in the following week. Liz usually sees to this.
Eucharistic Ministers It was suggested that Ministers on the Lady Chapel side of the church, should stand in the aisle in front of the Lady chapel. At the moment there is congestion in front of the organ. It was suggested that perhaps the priest could give Communion to alternate sides each week. One reason is that a lady needs a gluten free host which is in the pyx with the priest. There would be some thought about this. There was also debate about the practice of 'Intinction'. This is a cultural thing and there is no irreverence.
Christmas Cards A lot of cards are brought and put on the table, and can still be there in January. It was suggested that we could write one card to other parishioners which would be displayed in the Assembly area. There could be a donation box for a local charity where we could put the money saved, if we wished.. Maureen has been approached about this and thinks it is a good idea. A notice would be put in the Bulletin nearer to Christmas.
St. Crux. Liz constantly gets an answering machine when she rings up. She will try again.
The Carpet in the foyer is very worn which causes difficulties with wheelchairs. A new carpet would probably solve the problem. Eileen would look into this for us.
Everyone gave Fr. Ross their best wishes for a full and quick recovery from his hip operation.
8. Time & Place of Next Meeting: After 9.30 am. Mass, Sunday, 13th January, 2008, in the Assembly Area