

St. Joseph's Parish Council Meeting  
Held in St. Joseph's Church - 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2008

Chairman: Fr. Ross Thompson. Eleven members attended.

Apologies - Liz Boyes

1. Fr. Ross welcomed the Committee to the Meeting and opened it with a prayer.
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting - Taken as a correct record. Proposed: Tina Barber. Seconded: Eileen Gray
3. Matters Arising:

Foyer Carpet This and the Sacristy carpet have been replaced satisfactorily, which makes it much easier for wheelchairs.

Bowling Club Eleven people had originally said they were interested, but only six usually attended. A Meeting is planned for later this month, to discuss the future. It was suggested that other churches in the area might be interested in joining.

Lenten Lunch This was very successful.

Review of Lenten & Easter Services More people attended the Easter Vigil Service than last year. It was thought that next year the 'fire' should be in the Assembly area. This is a health and safety issue. The choir members asked if next year they could have the same music as this year. They felt they had not had enough time to rehearse. The attendance at the Easter Sunday morning Mass was very good.

St. Crux Fundraising Day. This went very well considering it was the middle of winter and raining. It was hard work for the people who helped, there were not enough volunteers, though some people who had not put their names down turned up to help. The Parish was very generous with cakes. There is great difficulty in getting in touch with the organisers on the date given for making a booking, so you have to take what is offered.

Toy Box There had been a good response but it was not known how many children used it.

Picture Quiz. This was won by Mike Sweeney. It was run at the same time as at English Martyrs. Some people had not known the closing date though it was put on the Bulletin at the beginning. A reminder of the closing date could be put on the Bulletin. It could also be on the box which contains the picture quiz.

Deanery Formation Course looked at the Readings for Lent. Only twenty-five people went to this, but all thought it was well worth attending. St. Aelreds have to pay rent for the hire of the hall, and thought it was not worth running if it was not more widely reported, and attended. There is a Deanery web site. The idea of having an Events Calendar at the back of church was put forward, so that every month events, like adult formation courses, could be posted. We are having Fr. Lumley and Jane Cook to the Parish later in the year. Tina suggested that some Deanery Formation Courses might be held in the evenings, so that people could attend after work

4. Reports from Organisations

Ladies Group Only two Meetings since the last Parish Council Meeting. The group has been involved with St. Crux, the Ecumenical Stations, Holy Saturday Vigil, Lenten Lunch

St. Vincent de Paul Soc. On 26<sup>th</sup> February the SVP. attended a talk and met Bishop Terence. They have been doing their usual visiting and giving out Easter gifts.

Catechists The First Holy Communions are on 8<sup>th</sup> June. This year we have six girls and three boys. Tina asked if the Ladies Group would help as usual at the breakfast for the children..

Children's Liturgy. Eight to ten children regularly attend, and on Palm Sunday there were seventeen. Everyone thought the part the children played in the Service was lovely and very effective.

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Parish Hall. Eileen said that we have four regular bookings, including bowls. There would be three parties this week.

The carpet in the kitchen was getting dirty, it would be more practical to have lino. The toilets could do with a coat of emulsion. There is a slight leak in the hall. The issue of the children on the stage was discussed. The notice on the door is still there, and it was decided that the notice near the stage would be replaced asking children not to go on it, but that the chairs would not be put up.

Gift Aid. New Financial Year. We have five new people gift aiding. Gift Aid will now stay at the same rate of returned tax. The percentage of the offertory using gift aid is in the seventies, but not everybody who gift aids uses envelopes, some are on Bankers Orders. From the Diocesan point of view they hoped for two thirds of the collection being covered by Gift Aid. Obviously if you are not paying tax you can't Gift Aid. It was suggested that Gift Aid envelopes for visitors to St. Joseph's should be considered.

5. Building Maintenance. The Presbytery fence at the back was damaged by vandals trying to get access to the garden. The fencing was replaced, but unfortunately the other half of the fence came down in the gales, and has also been replaced. The brick work is really a problem especially at the back of the Sacristy where there are damp problems, and a lot of the bricks need attention. The archway also needs repairs. The brickwork was done during the war, and the erosion to the bricks is enormous. There will have to be ordered progress in replacing crumbling brickwork over the next few years.
  6. Future Events The Meeting agreed that the Summer Fayre this year should be on the 28<sup>th</sup> June. The May Procession will hopefully be on 11<sup>th</sup> May. During this Mass there is to be a Confirmation, when someone is brought into the Church. There is to be a baptism at a Saturday night Mass.
  7. Any Other Business

We have no weddings planned so far this year

We really need more altar servers.

The Eucharistic Ministers standing in the aisles is working well. It was requested that a little reminder be put in the Newsletter that the Communion Antiphon is always started by the second reader after Fr. Ross has taken the Chalice.

It was thought that it was time to have two readers at Saturday night Mass. We need more Eucharistic Ministers. It was difficult to get enough Ministers for Saturday night Mass, though the numbers are just as large as on Sunday morning

Readers at the Christmas & Holy Week Services - thought it would be better if Fr. Ross allocated readers for the various readings, rather than relying on people putting their names down.

“Calling All Musicians” Mary said that only three people had put their names down. Fr. Maughan wants to know what the resources are within each parish, because it is hoped to have a Diocesan Orchestra and a Diocesan Choir.

Music at Holy Communion - quiet music could be played as people went to Holy Communion, then the Communion hymn. There would be a period of silence before the final prayer.

It was suggested that a member of our Indian congregation be asked to join the Parish Council

The Parish accounts would be given out as a leaflet inside the Parish Newsletter.
  8. Date & Place of Next Meeting – Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> July, in the Assembly area after 9.30 am. Mass.
- Fr. Ross brought the Meeting to a close with a prayer..