

St. Joseph's Parish Council Meeting
Held in St. Joseph's Church - 3rd May, 2009

Chairman: Fr. Ross Thompson. Eight members attended.

Apologies - Roger Shenton, Theresa Caddy, Adam Gontarek

Fr. Ross welcomed Andrea McQue on to the Parish Council.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were taken as read.

Matters Arising - The Bishop's visit – no new date yet.

Reader Training. It was decided to have regular meetings for Ministers of the Word. Fr. Ross would approach Jane Cook to see if she could come to our first Meeting on Tues., 9th June, 7.30 – 8.30 pm. A notice would be put in the Newsletter explaining who read the Communion Antiphon, and when; also emphasising that Readers use the term 'Communion Antiphon'.

Finance – Planned Giving

A record is kept by one person in the Parish of what is given in the Planned Giving Offertory Envelopes. Some people prefer to pay by standing order. If you are not a tax payer you can gift aid in your spouse's name. We issue a yearly statement of donations received and tax recovered for each donor.

Gift Aid Roger had offered to do a Gift Aid appeal to explain how we can maximise the sum we could get back from the Government. Many matters could be mentioned in the talk which would help explain to Parishioners exactly how the Offertory Envelope Scheme is run, and how they can Gift Aid if they or a member of their household pays tax.

Adult Formation Courses

We now have a whole training pack for the Parish. It would be for this Parish and may be different from what others do. We need two or three people from our Parish who would be willing to implement what is in the pack. It is important that there are 'welcomers' at the weekend Masses. This Parish has a reputation for being a welcoming Parish, but we need to 'tweak' it a bit. The Meeting enquired about Courses which would be held in the Parish.

Andrea asked if the data base of the parish included the children in a family. Fr Ross has a list of all the children in our area at All Saints School. If there is going to be one Confirmation Service we need to look forward, and see if we have any prospective candidates. It was felt that Confirmation should be at the age of nine or ten, not when the children are doing their GCSEs.

We need to put a very basic Parish pack together. We need to be family orientated and supportive of young families. The assembly area is a big asset. We could have a welcome notice telling all the details of what goes on in the Parish. There could be parishioners to speak to people as they leave Mass as well as when they come in.

Counters Extra people are needed on the counting rota. The Saturday evening and Sunday collections are counted on Sunday because our Treasurer collects it on Sunday, and takes it to the Bank on Monday. Special collections; and extras, such as candle money, are counted separately. The Meeting felt it best if Fr. Ross approached possible new counters personally.

"Once a Catholic?" This is on 27th June 10 am. – 3 pm. and is stressed to be important. The workshop is available to everybody, but booking is essential. We need several people to go to this because it is about evangelising people who have lapsed, and bringing them back into church.

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Reports from Organisations

The Ladies Group Annual General Meeting Report is on the Notice Board. The Group's Apple Pie Supper raised £350, The ticket prices were increased and so raised more money for the SVP. They help on many stalls at the Parish Fetes. The third Liturgy Book for the children was from the proceeds of the Cake Stall. They cater at any events in the Parish such as the Easter Vigil celebration in the hall, the Lenten lunch, Ecumenical Stations of the Cross. The Sunday Refreshment money goes to the church. They really need more members to join. A list of parishioners willing to help the group was suggested. The Group know that the Parish is very supportive when there is an event.

Regarding Ecumenical Stations of the Cross, Fr. Ross said how few people from the other denominations were there this year. They had been emailed about this, but in future we could send them a notice and possibly a poster.

St. Vincent de Paul Society. They have eight members doing their usual visits. They gave Easter gifts, plus gifts to Morrell House and Amelia House. They attended Mass on the Feast of Saint Vincent de Paul, which was celebrated by Bishop Terry, and he will say the Mass again this year. The SVP is twinned with two Indian Conferences - St. Xavier Devipattanam and Blessed Mother Theresa, Mangalam in Kerala. Central Council said that the Blessed Mother Theresa Conference were desperately in need of fishing nets which would cost £640. They would send the money immediately, and St. Joseph's Conference would pay Central Council back over three years.

Children's Liturgy. There are up to twenty children, and five regular helpers. Everyone now needs to be CRB checked. Kyene is doing this, and one parent has signed so far.

Altar Servers. The altar servers really need some intensive training. It was felt that there should be some sort of outing or social, perhaps they could be taken Ten Pin Bowling. It was pointed out that anyone over eighteen who is an altar server needs to be CRB checked. We don't have any First Communicants this year, so we can't approach any of them to be altar servers.

Ministers of Holy Communion. We could do with more. After July 2010 all Ministers of Holy Communion have to be CRB checked.

Adult Education in the Parish. Five parishioners are attending the Lay Pastoral Ministry Course which is reported to be excellent.

Any Other Business

Eileen was concerned about the grounds around the Hall. The weeds were coming through the membrane which had been laid, and looked untidy. Eileen would try to find out who did it originally and we could then approach them.

There is still work to be done on the electrics and brickwork of the church.

The new Notice Board outside the church is now in place, it is blue and white which is supposed to be easier to read.

Fr. Ross ended the Meeting with a prayer.

Date of Next Meeting – to be arranged.