

Minutes of meeting of Parish Pastoral Council held on 23rd May 2023

Present: Canon Tony Brennan, Justin Redmond, Victor Wavingana, Clive Wadia,

Lin Bateman, Charles Ullermayer, Pauline Cotton, Bernadette Freed, Elouise Freed

- Canon Tony opened the meeting with a prayer.
- PC welcomed the group and thanked them for attending.
- Minutes of last meeting held on 28th February 2023 were reviewed and agreed as a true reflection of the meeting.
- Updates:
 - Planning - still pending owing to listed building issues. Fr Tony feels unlikely it will go through.
 - Building: still some water ingress. Roof leaks sealed. Lighting in hall had attention
 - Financial: draft accounts prepared last week. Mostly healthy. Slight surplus £210,000
Accounts will be published in September. Diocesan levy has increased. Putting in more than we are spending. Some Dioceses charge more. Set at 38% of income - currently £32,000.
 - Local area PAC meeting: Preparation for Diocesan Assembly at Thornton College on 15th July. 4 representatives from St Mary's will be Stella Forni, Elouise Freed, Tiny and Rohan Ferdinando.
- Plans for Parish Open Meeting to be held on Saturday 17th June 11.00 – 12.30p.m.
 - ask for Questions and comments to be submitted in advance. B Freed to organise a suggestion box and E Freed to organise slips for people to write on
 - See suggestions from last meeting (Minutes distributed 16th March 2023)
 - Fr Tony back on 16th June
 - PC to organise refreshments
 - Wheelchairs / Buggies at Mass – propose specific area. Get advice from Diocesan H & S rep
 - Use Synod process- listen to ideas, not own agenda. Prepare card for people to offer their ideas and questions (suggestion box) Review into 4/5 topics for discussion.
- St Mary's also hosts meetings for clergy with Bishop
- St Albans Festival 24th June 10.00-12.00 Mass at 12.30
- Pastoral issues:
 - Sacraments: FHC took place on Saturday 13th May. Confirmation will be on Friday 14th July. St M to host Polish Church Confirmation for 85 candidates and also Confirmation for Holy Family and St John's young people. (size of St M church, able to host larger groups). Distribution of Holy Communion under both forms: Fr Tony to start with a weekday Mass, but will require more Eucharistic Ministers.

- Youth Meetings: Target group 12 – 16 year olds 8th session coming up started with 9/10 young people, up to 21 with 3 adults, meeting every 4 – 6 weeks, Fridays 6.30 – 8.00p.m. Need some kind of Publicity board to promote activities.
 - Irish Forum holding sessions for Irish catholic Youngsters.
 - Family Day – Young People want to plan an event
 - Counselling service holding sessions on Wed evgs – numbers range from 4 – 22.
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- Canon Tony very keen to organise a Parish Mission. Plan to hold it for 60yth anniversary of the church next year. Fr T to contact the Redemptorists to lead the Mission.
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- Date of next meeting – Tuesday 18th July at 7.00 p.m.
Feedback from Parish Open Meeting and from Diocesan Assembly