

## **Minutes for the Parish Pastoral Committee Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Present: FrM, Dcn BT, MOD, ML, KS, TM, BW,

Apologies: SB

Opening Prayer FrM and Dcn B

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS MINUTES.**

Covid Precautions – following guidance from the Bishops of England and Wales it has been agreed that parishioners will continue to be asked to sanitise their hands on entering Church.

The Holy water scoops can be refilled, but there is advisement that the water needs to be changed regularly. With this in mind, FrM thought it better not to reintroduce the Holy Water in the scoops at this present time.

The guidance suggests that the usual forms of cleaning are sufficient so it was decided that we can stop the sanitizing cleaning after the 9.00am Mass

The sign of Peace – feedback from parishioners indicated that people do miss the sign of Peace – it was suggested that perhaps a gesture of nodding or a slight bow to your neighbour might be used in place of a handshake and FrM will take a decision on this.

The Holy communion continues in one kind and congregational singing is permitted but face coverings are recommended for the congregation whilst singing.

Social distancing and the opening of windows and doors – these measures are to be continued.

### **WALKING TOGETHER (Synodal pathway)**

It was felt that that there was a very good parish response to the in-person and online meetings that had been organized by Deacon Brian. It was felt that the opportunity to come together with fellow parishioners and discuss topics of interest and importance was very useful and enlightening. The PPC members had read Dcn B's summary – and people felt it was an accurate and good representation of parishioner's thoughts. It was proposed that perhaps this format could be used next year during the Parish weekend or on another occasion as a way of reflecting and stimulating parish life.

There will be a Deanery meeting as part of the Walking Together initiative on Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 12.30pm here at St Michael's with up to 6 people from each parish being able to attend – there are 7 parishes in the deanery.

It is expected that it will take a similar form with parishioners from different parishes being mixed into groups to discuss the questions and perhaps looking for commonality – each parish might bring their summary and responses will be pooled and a final draft produced.

St Michael's will be looking for volunteers from the parish to attend - it will be put in the newsletter again.

The Synod in Rome will not be until 2023

Dcn B picked out some topics from the meetings that perhaps can be considered on a parish level and asked PPC members to consider them.

Apprehension about the sacrament of reconciliation

Mass is difficult to understand

The sign of peace is missed

Teas and coffee after Mass was popular and helped develop/encourage community

Ongoing formation

Full use of Advent, Lent and Easter to help spiritual growth

Parish Missions helped in the past

Desire for healing services

People would like to know more about details of talks and activities happening in neighbouring parishes

Social events are important

An initiative exists whereby parishioners are asked to pray for a child taking their First Holy Communion and parishioners commented that they would like the opportunity to meet the child they are praying for.

Local processions to help evangelisation – witness together as a group rather than individually

Is the process of coming together and discussing topics of interest a format we can use for the AGM

It was felt that perhaps it can be repeated next year with some questions to stimulate discussions – as an opportunity to reflect on parish life

## **75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH**

The banners for the altar to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary are being produced

TM asked if we could also produce cards as a commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary

KS suggested we produce a new prayer to St Michael

It was suggested that perhaps we could ask the children of St Martin's to help with the prayer

## **PARISH OUTING**

The Parish outing to the chapel at Culham Court, Henley has been fixed for Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> the timing has not yet been confirmed – but it is envisaged that the day will start at approximately 10.30am – a guided tour will take place possibly in smaller groups and there will be a time of prayer and exposition – permission has been granted to use the grass outside the chapel to have lunch – numbers are limited to 20 people. The site is owned by Mr and Mrs Schwarzenbach

Den B asked what else we would like to do in the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

BW asked if anything was going on for the Queen's Jubilee – it was reported back that we had decided to leave the jubilee celebrations to the local Parish council level as plans in some of the villages in the parish area were already underway.

BW asked if there are any plans in place if the Queen dies? FrM reported that every local authority will have plans in place.

It was agreed that Canon Paul Fitzpatrick will be asked to come to say Mass during the St Michael's weekend – leading on to a parish lunch and social event.

It was agreed that people liked to have notice of events taking place in the parish with this in mind BW asked if a date had been set for the Christmas Pudding evening 2022 – KS said she will check the calendar as it always coincides with stir up Sunday.

It was suggested that we might like to ask a priest from outside the parish such as Fr Udris from Marlow to give a retreat or Fr Jiji from Campion hall to come and speak over the parish weekend as part of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary events.

KS asked if there were any plans to invite any of the former parish priests to the parish weekend/75<sup>th</sup> celebrations – it was felt that distance, age and timings may make it difficult for some of the priests to attend– it was suggested that they might be sent a commemorative 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary card and to include an invite to the celebrations. ML commented that it was nice to be invited even if they could not make it to any of the celebrations.

Ks asked if we are going to have an exhibition – display with images from the 75 years of the parish– FrM commented that this must include the school and info about it.

It was agreed that we would need to ask for help and perhaps could ask the school to borrow their display boards

Dcn Brian – needs to get articles ready for the local magazines publishing in the Spring and Summer

It was therefore felt an Open day should take place on 9<sup>th</sup> July to open the church up to the community for guided tours and to offer tea and cakes in the car park/garden/hall

## **LENT**

Dcn B asked if we wanted to support a charity for a Lent appeal.

MOD suggested we support a church in Poland in Gdansk – Fr M suggested that MOD could make a separate, private appeal to parishioners for this church.

ML suggested CAFOD – WALK AGAINST Hunger – 200km in Lent –parishioners could donate through just giving.

FrM –suggested Save the Children fund

The local Food Bank it was deemed would be a good cause for a Lenten appeal.

So it was agreed that The local Food Bank and Save the children would be chosen as the recipients of monies collected during Lent – Dcn B said he would also encourage food donations as well as monetary

Lenten devotions – It was agreed that as in the past we would have Holy Hour every Monday during Lent together with Stations of the cross after masses on Tuesdays and Thursdays

A discussion was had as to how we might introduce a new generation to the Stations of the Cross

FrM commented that the school do their own stations of the cross at school

The question was posed as to whether we can make Lent/Stations of the Cross a time of discovery for families? FrM is concerned this would take away from school initiatives

It was suggested that this would be an initiative for the parents and families “with” their children to introduce them to the Stations of the Cross – as a family experience – a more relaxed experience with a bit more interaction

FrM commented that we have Children’s stations of the cross on Good Friday Morning

BW asked if we could connect and reach out to Sonning Common school – which is non-denominational and therefore does not have a program for experiencing the stations of the cross. The local Anglican minister has approached the local schools but no interest has been shown.

KS suggested an adult version of the Walk with me Lenten calendar

### **SUSTAINABILITY**

Cecilia and Mary – there was no response from the parish appeal but BW and KS said they would be happy to join the group.

ML has signed the parish up to the CAFOD initiative – it starts by doing an audit – for example by asking do we use eco products for cleaning, is there a bee hotel, wild flower area in the garden etc.

ML outlined the plan – and it was agreed that a meeting would be organized.

FrM reported that we have been asked to have an appeal by the Society of African Missions and we need to suggest to them a date for their visit. FrM suggested this might be appropriate when he is away on holiday as this would cover the Masses – it was suggested that September just after the beginning of school term would be a good time and FrM agreed that he would contact them.

### **AOB**

St Bernadette’s relics are coming to the UK in September 2022

They will be 3 days in the diocese and the last day will be in Oxfordshire – this will be for further discussion when more details are available.

FG has produced a Welcome pack for new visitors which was warmly received by the members of the PPC who thought it a very good idea – with suggestions that it could also be adapted to provide a welcome pack for children. Dcn B and KS will liaise with FG to develop the idea/prototype

Date for next meeting 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Closing prayer FrM

