

Parish Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes Tuesday 29th March 2022

Attendees: June Biggar, Barbara Crack, Paul Kerryson, Fr. Martin and Liz Murphy

Apologies: Jenny Coward, Louise Handbury, Paul Leff.

Absent: Justin Lawson.

Opening prayer led by Paul Kerryson

1. Easter Celebrations:

Palm Sunday 10/4/22: Fr. is planning to have a procession with palms at the beginning of 10.30am Mass.

Maundy Thursday 14/4/22: 7pm with washing of the feet of first communion children. Barbara to invite up to 12 children. More children welcome and can assist. Fr Martin will invite Eucharistic ministers to come and renew their commitment. **Action: Barbara, Fr Martin**

Good Friday 15/4/22: 3pm: Veneration of the cross is allowed (by bowing). Barbara to ask Oonagh if she would like to do a children's liturgy. **Action: Barbara**

7pm Stations of the cross led by confirmation group. Fr Martin to confirm with Francesca.

Action: Fr Martin

Saturday night vigil 16/4/22: either 8pm or 8.30pm (when dark). Fire allowed, real candles. Jones family being received into the church. Water will be blessed, and we can start using it on Easter Sunday.

Easter Sunday 17/4/22: 8.30am and 10.30am. At 10.30am Joseph and Felicity will be enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen for altar servers.

The Salesians will be on retreat during Easter week so there will be no weekday Masses.

We have £135 donated for Easter flowers.

2. Resuming ministries:

Eucharistic ministry will resume at Easter.

We have 5 altar servers now Fr. Martin will continue to invite the children as they make their first sacraments.

People have been volunteering to welcome but no one is organizing that yet.

We have 8 children being confirmed on July 1st.

9 baptisms between now and July.

1 wedding in May, 1 in July, 1 in June (Italy)

First sacraments children from last year who did not get chance to celebrate together, will be invited to 10.30am Mass and for a celebration after Mass with sandwiches and cakes. This might be combined with a parish event at Savio. Details and date TBC.

3. Building work:

Ramp and toilet will be finished by 1/4/22 and the tarmac will be laid 4/4/22. Railings will arrive in 6 weeks. There is an option for temporary railings.

The gates made by Ron Michaux will be relocated to the porch to enclose it.

The cleaning team will inspect and clean as necessary on Tuesday 5/4/22 or the following week if the work is not completed.

4. Fundraising:

We currently owe £39438.28. By the end of the ramp and toilet work we will owe ~ £90000. Fr. Martin has prepared a letter for parishioners which will explain our financial position, and which sets out some ideas for raising significant funds. This will be distributed some time after Easter and talked about at the following weekend Masses.

5. House Renovation:

The diocese has refused the £70000 to renovate the house. They had a cashflow issue, were not keen for the parish to go further into debt and wanted to see the parish make some attempts to fundraise. Following suggestions at the last PPC, Fr invited Andrew Hart and Holmes Naden to view the house and suggest the best way to rent it out. Andrew Hart suggested that it would be better as a house rather than office space as there is a glut of office space available to rent. He also suggested making it 4 bedrooms by splitting the big bedroom. He said we could get £1000-1050 pcm as a 3 bedroomed house or £1200-1250 pcm as a 4 bedroomed house. He thought people might be put off by the proximity of the church. Ellis from Holmes Naden recommended leaving the house as 3 bedrooms but making an ensuite. He suggested we could get £1500 pcm. 10% of that for management. Careful wording of the rental agreement concerning use of the hall might be needed.

Once we have raised some funds to reduce our debt or the diocese have an improved cashflow situation, we may be able to revisit this project.

6. Elections:

We will hold elections in June with a view to new members starting their term in September. We will run this cycle annually at these times.

7. AOB:

Mother's prayers: June to write a note for the bulletin to let people know about the mother's prayers groups running in the parish.

Action: June

Next meeting date: TBD