

ST. AUGUSTINE OF ENGLAND CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH MEETING

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27TH 2018

Present: Fr. Dominic (FD), Fr. Paul (FP), Deacon Kevin, (DK), Annette Kelly (AK), Frank Kelly (FK), Gerry Coburn (GC), Madeleine Coburn (MC), Michael Keating(MK), Angela Keating (AK2), Josie Concannon (JS), Theresa Cund (TC), Stephanie Withers (SW), Pam Davis (PD), Margaret Pearsall (MP), James Oliver (JO), Mary Cassidy (MC), Pauline Raponi (PR), Libby Service (LS), Bob Service (BS), Christine Hughes (CH), and Helen Brookes (HB).

Opening Prayer and welcome: Father Dominic

Apologies: None

Minutes of Previous meeting: approved and signed by Father Dominic

Matters Arising: None

Looking forward in hope:

Father Dominic expressed thanks to everyone for his and Father Paul's birthday celebration, and for the presentation cheque which will help with their holidays. Also for the welcome extended to Catholic Handicapped Fellowship members from Oxford who had attended the celebration.

Art Classes going well – everyone enjoys them. Some from outside parish attend.

Mass for deceased clergy of deanery will take place on 13th November 12.00pm at Holy Souls, Acocks Green.

Msg Danny McHugh has retired from St. George and St. Theresa's parish with Fr Robert Taylerson taking over the parish.

Father Bernard Kelly has retired from Our Lady of the Rosary parish in Saltley with **Father Terin Mullakara** taking over from him. He has now gone back to Crusaders of Holy Spirit Community to which he belongs, based on Chester Road, Erdington.

Father Bijou will be taking over at Olton Friary parish.

Father Dominic asked for prayers for all priests of the deanery, especially remembering those who are undergoing changes as above.

Christmas Fayre: this will probably take place on December 1st. It was suggested we might have an SVP stall this year, perhaps in the front room, and may be geared especially towards young people. BS suggested that funds from the stall could either be split 50/50 between SVP and parish or 100% going to parish charities.

St. Augustine's school: New head teacher doing well, FD said she has the energy to meet challenges with support of staff. **Newly appointed secretary;** Anne Marie Coburn.

Fortnightly newsletter. Academy status going ahead, have to declare by Christmas, no choice in this. 15 schools involved. Archbishop supports this as should give greater protection for our schools. Over 50% of schools in diocese already academies. MC said this support is needed now that local council funding gone and also to support Catholic ethos. 15 schools may be too many however. FD said teachers have real concerns, prayers needed. Schools already converted seem to be going well however. 2 secondary schools hope to join (St. Peter's and Blessed John Henry Newman). Government will give larger sum of funding to academies. **A conversation took place** as to whether academies may be better able to encourage our Catholic children/families to practice their faith more readily and to attend Sunday mass more. Maybe they will be able to look at the issues involved and have a greater influence on schools than the diocese, as this is a huge undertaking. Would it help if celebration of Sacraments could take place during Sunday Mass so that all parishioners were involved and could welcome those being baptised, confirmed etc. FD mentioned concern over length of Mass if this should happen and numbers of children/families who attend for First Holy Communion. Hope is that communication between parish and school can be enhanced further. DK's Monday morning CAFE is a great initiative.

St. Peter's school: TC spoke of governors' meeting; exam results good, maybe not quite so good this year with new marking system, but still good. Matthew Hill has set up a group called **Catholic Life for teacher's and pupils** to support Catholic ethos in school. **DK talks** to year 9 on vocations. **There is a weekly mass and plans for Ash Wednesday Masses** are underway already. St. Peter's have **a policy re no use of mobile phones in school and uniform policy is also being tightened.** A general conversation took place regards where we are going with young people and lack of communication with them. FD suggested we make a point of welcoming our young people who attend Mass. AK said a smile helps. FD said we are good at Sacramentalising children but not so good at helping them to have a personal encounter with Christ. DK mentioned that he encourages those being prepared for Confirmation to purchase a Compendium of Catechism, books on Gospels and Simple Prayer book. He has suggested to other Deacons to have Benediction more often. MK said we judge our schools more on academic status than on faith. **FD said not to be downhearted as the Holy Spirit is working in all.**

Parish Catechesis: MC has now retired after many years as parish Catechist. LS and DN (Dassan Netikadan) have taken the role on, many thanks to them for this. MC is continuing to support with literature and running the parent preparation evening. FD said we need another Catechist. Prayers please.

Scouts: 2 new volunteers have come forward. Looking at possible amalgamation with Our Lady of Wayside. FD would support this.

Mini Vinnies (youth SVP), BS spoke on this, he said it encourages young people to be involved in the parish. He said the course young people follow in the Mini Vinnies supports R.E. syllabus for years 4,5 and 6 in school. MC asked if Rainbows and Brownies are involved. FD said not at this time.

Building Projects: FD said work on heating went well, very successful. Parish is on verge of appointing contractors for flat roof repair. Old Pugin church and school walls in need of repair. Mortar has reacted with the bricks, damaging bricks. Mortar needs replacing. Need

conservation builders for this. Will appoint one of two of these. Probably Spring time for this work as frost is detrimental to the process. Diocese will advise whether to have an overdraft to pay for the work or whether to use unit investment. Father asked if we should look at parish fund raising towards the cost. JO suggested a parish social event. FP said we need to be open about the costs and hopefully parishioners will want to contribute. FD said parish were so good over fund raising for the re-furbishment MC suggested 50/50 of investment money and parish fund raising. The roof will be done immediately, the other work will start in the Spring.

Gift Aid: brief discussion on how to improve income from this. FK said offertory giving is poor in general and we need to improve on Gift Aid.

Parish Mission: A brief discussion with suggestion of forming a Pastoral Parish Council in the future to look at Pastoral provision within the parish. This could be with representation of different groups within the parish.

Maryvale courses: there is still time to enrol for this year. Spoke of importance of Catechesis in particular. Two people need to be present when teaching children. Parish formation is of benefit to those involved in various roles within the parish. FD confirmed that financial support is available.

There was no time left for discussion on parish evangelisation group activities. FD suggested we meet more often throughout the year and suggested January for the next meeting.

Final prayer said by FD.