

Minutes of the parish meeting on 13 th September 2022.

Father Dominic opening the meeting with prayer and welcomed those present.
Apologies were received from Helen Brooke's.

Item 2

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising.

Fr Dominic suggested that since this meeting was held in 2019, there was no need
To discuss this item.

Item 3 Parish Evangelism.

Juliana Benjamin, spoke about the Legion of Mary. She explained that the aim of the legion was evangelism under Mary, our Queen and Mother . To this end they were involved with visiting the sick and with local visiting to discover lapsed Catholics and encourage them to return to church. They also held Night Fever several times a year, where the public are invited to come into church to pray . She shared how moved people were when coming into church.

Libby Service spoke about the Parish Evangelism initiative. Their aim here is to look at the Pope's Vision for the church and following on from this the Diocesan vision.

Catholics are called to be missionary disciples and that each is called to evangelize.

These discussions focus on four headings, Evangelism, Liturgy and Worship, Formation of the individual, and Social Outreach. She shared the need to encourage all Catholics to use their gifts. She also expressed the urgent need to bring people back to church who had not returned to worship after lockdown and the need to encourage families to be more involved.

Father Dominic expressed the belief that the Holy Spirit is guiding us and speaks to all, and that Dialogue and Listening are evangelism .

Henrick informed the meeting of the work of the interfaith forum, and that as people talked and listened to each other they understood each other more.

Item 4. Social Gatherings.

Fr Dominic explained that social gatherings were of great importance. In recent times these events had been fewer. He suggested there was a need to encourage more social events.

There has been the suggestion of a Facebook page for the church.

Henrick pointed out that the Memory Cafe was meeting again on the 2 nd Thursday of each month meeting between 2 -3.30pm and was valued by all who attend.

Item 5. Schools.

Fr Dominic reported that he had not yet received the report from the school.

3 new Key Stage 2 teachers and 1 new Key Stage 1 teacher had been appointed. A new head had joined Saint Peter's school, Mr Stuart Shelton. St Peter's had had excellent exam results.

A long discussion followed about the standard of behaviour among pupils from St Peter's.

It was felt that this was due, in part, to the social issues affecting many of the pupils.

Bob Service suggested we needed a new catechism to speak to the present day.

Item 6 Pilgrimages 2023.

Fr Dominic informed the meeting that possible pilgrimages would be offered to the congregation and individuals could express their preference.

Item 7 Hong Kongers update.

These members appear to feel welcome to our church community .

They had expressed the need of catechism classes both for adults and children.

These would need to be offered in Cantonese, also English classes would help some.

In addition support with healing of families would be a great benefit to the members from Hong Kong.

It was further pointed out that students from Hong Kong were experiencing great financial hardship.

Item 7 Sunday reflections on the Blessed Sacrament.

Gillian Jones reported that a series of devotions to the Sacrament would be held after the 11 am Mass for 6 Sundays. There would also be a Novena on the example of Mary, being offered during Advent.

Fr Dominic felt that perhaps we have lost our sense of wonder and awe regarding the Blessed Sacrament.

Further business.

Bob Service, spoke about the work of SVP. He shared that SVP had dealt with 294 calls including 35 to the elderly. Also £2500, had been distributed in the form of food and clothing. Action, he said, was at the heart of Christianity and the Holy Spirit can move mountains.

Membership of SVP had fallen and there was a great need to encourage others to join in this vital work. Due to poor health, he needed to retire as chairman and a replacement needed to be found. There were several ways of being involved with SVP. Mini SVP, young SVP, and 18-30 SVP were available.

Fr Dominic suggested that information about SVP could be shared during Mass on Sunday.

Fr Dominic thanked everyone and led those present in the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting then closed.