

MINUTES OF PARISH FORUM MEETING June 22nd 2016

Present: Mgr J Corcoran, M.Bradley, M.Donnelly, M.Woodward, Anthony Brown, A.Precious, C.Muldoon, P.Sutcliffe, L.Collinson, Fr K.Murphy, L.Marsden, J.Clegg, Andrew Brown, A.Marsden, P.Donnelly, A.Cook, Andrew Brown (Sabden), B.Hilton, S.White, J.Brown, P.White, B.Collinson, D.Marsden, J.Byrne, S.Fellows, G.Fellows, S.Shore, P.Holgate, J.Luciani, P.D'Souza, M.Smith, M.Fox, T.Clay, K.Clay

1. Peter D opened the meeting with a prayer and Mike welcomed everybody to the Forum with a special welcome to those attending for the first time.

2. **Apologies:** received from Chris Carr, Carol Riley, Les & Christine Dixon, Mark Wiggins, Kate & M Hargreaves and Mary Sellers.

3. **Minutes of meeting held on Jan 20th** were accepted as a true record. April's Forum meeting was replaced by a parish Consultation meeting.

4. Matters Arising:

- The Joy of the Gospel - 4 sessions have taken place and feedback was very positive, more, similar sessions requested.
- Jimmy Cricket Concert funds were for Arnold Junior.
- Kisses - £42000 now raised. In India school is now built and being staffed, a sanitation unit is being built and a programme planned. Meriel now on contract with Caritas to raise funds for a Mother and baby unit.
- Parish Supper had to be cancelled, organization was disjointed. Next year Susan W, Anne Cook and Gerry Hennigan to plan and coordinate.
- Bishop's report – draft is ready for Deanery meeting on Tues 28th June, should be ready for distribution in July. It will deal with each deanery individually and a Parish meeting will be needed to discuss it – possibly in July.

5. Review of Recent Events.

- **Parish Meetings.** 2 meetings have been held to plan what we need to do to become an effective Missionary Parish. 40 to 50 people attended each. The organizers were the 99 Group, now renamed the MST (Missionary Steering Team). The first meeting looked at the strengths of the Parish, obstacles to effective mission and priority need. "Welcome" was a big issue and so the second meeting began to address this. The outcome was that a small group was set up to develop a welcome pack and manage the "Welcome" of our parish.
- **First Communion.** We have now completed 2 years using the revised strategy. It has worked extremely well and no children have been excluded. Parishioners have commented on the improved behaviour and on how reverent everyone was this year. Sabden also had a beautiful service.

6. Weld Day.

This will be on Sunday 3rd July. Byrnes to provide wine, school provide strawberries to be served by ladies, Peter W to check that ice cream van is coming and Fr John to contact Gerry Lambert re amplification. First Communion children from Sabden and Clitheroe will receive certificates.

7. Confessional / Reconciliation room / defibrillator.

Soundproofing is to be finished. It is now possible to kneel or sit and to choose face to face if wished. A special hook is to be put up for the defibrillator which is in the sacristy at the moment. A note telling parishioners where this is to be put in the newsletter and Fr. John to ask Teresa M if she will check it each week.

8. Ladies Toilets.

Ladies toilets in Social Centre are in a poor state. Tony Hargan has drawn up a plan to redesign and upgrade them but this will cost between £10,000 and £12,000. The design will include four cubicles, three washbasins and baby changing facilities. Parish will pay half and funds to be raised for the rest. Ladies asked that Christmas Fayre money go towards this and Knights offered support. Work cannot begin until the end of October but temporary new washbasins will be installed immediately.

9. Welcome Pack.

Welcome group have already met. A detailed, comprehensive hand out was distributed, this outlined suggested ways forward discussed at the meeting. Website committee and welcome committee need to meet.

10. Organizing Committee to involve new Parishioners.

Penelope D'Souza a new parishioner, spoke about this. She emphasized the need for a support group to bridge the gap and support newcomers. Need for more promotion of our church and what goes on. People in the new developments could best be targeted through Love Clitheroe and the CCP; a welcome event is to take place in October. Meeting of CCP at Trinity on 13th July. School and seedlings also could be involved.

11. Joint Christmas Raffle.

This item carried over from last Forum. The Dunsop Bridge raffle is part of a social event involving the whole community and removing the draw would be detrimental to this event. This matter will be discussed at the next Forum with ideas. Christmas Fayre is on 22nd November 2016.

12. Asylum Project.

This week is refugee week. Tom Clay is organizing a day out to Clitheroe for 60 refugees from Manchester on Sat. July 23rd. This will be a picnic at Edisford Bridge, a walk led by Fr. John from Brungerley Park and a barbeque organized by the Mosque. There is a form at the back of church for volunteer helpers. Walking boots, play equipment and cakes are needed as well as £600 to fund the event. This is a great way to make people welcome. It was suggested that school may lend outdoor play equipment and Brigit Hillton agreed to speak to the Council about using Edisford on the day.

Knit and Knatterthon takes place on Wed. 29th June. Support from this is having a big effect on families in Turkey.

13. RCIA

The next course starts in September and will be run by Tom Clay, Mike Smith and Neil Wallace. Please encourage attendance.

14. Newsletter.

It is now difficult to fit everything into the newsletter in its current format. Fr. John will send for sample newsletters from Redemptorist Publications and decide if any of these are an improvement.

15, Parish Groups.

- **St Mary's** Summer fete is Saturday July 2nd.
- **Trafficking** – Leaflets and prayer cards are ready for launch on July 10th. Justice magazine contains an article by Sean Hall and is available free from the back of Church.
- **Ladies** – 64 people attended the tea dance celebrating the Queen's birthday. Coffee morning in aid of Dementia raised £500, cheque was presented to Peter Anwyl. Ladies will help at Weld day on July 3rd. A mystery tour is organized on 27th July, cost is £27 including a meal. The Mercy Brothers have been invited to perform on October 14th. Fr. Frankie and Fr. Jo Gee are in this group.
- **Prayer Friends** – All first communicants had a prayer friend. All have been invited to a party at school on Wed. 29th June. Mass of Healing is on 25th Sept.
- **Knights** - £500 donated to a sister in Iraq, £500 to Fr. Mundy in Cameroon for a vehicle.

16. AOB.

Life Walk will take place next May bank holiday, helpers needed. Arnold was given a round of applause in appreciation of all his years of hard work organizing this. There will be no HCPT walk this year but Meriel agreed to organize a walk to raise funds for mother and baby unit in Bolton and the ladies' toilets.

17. Dates of next Meetings.

Wed. Sept. 21st

Wed. Nov.16th

7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm