

MINUTES OF PARISH FORUM MEETING November 17th 2015

Present: Fr. Kevin Murphy, Mike Bradley, Peter & Margaret Donnelly, Arnold Marsden, Bernard & Maureen Mercer, Anthony Brown, Les and Betty Collinson, Toni O'Donnell, Daphne & Lou Marsden, Susan & Peter White, Sheila Shore, Susan Fellows, Carole Riley, Marie Valolin, Ena Davies, Jane Brown, Damien Buggy.

1. Apology from PP for his first ever absence from a Forum. Fr. John is attending School Governors meeting.

2. The meeting opened at 7.30 pm with a prayer, led by Fr. Kevin.

3. Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting. **Apologies** received from Andrew Brown (Sabden) and Andrew Brown (Clitheroe)

4. **Minutes of meeting held on Sept. 16th** were accepted as a true record and there were no matters arising.

Peter and Susan W. asked that thanks to all those who did such an excellent job clearing the garden at Sabden be recorded.

5. Review of Recent Events.

- **Autumn Fayre.** This was a successful event despite poor attendance and raised £3000 +, however, there was a feeling that it should be a Christmas Fayre; Father Christmas swells the numbers. There was also a discussion about having just one raffle for all 3 Churches in the Parish. Opinions were divided on this. A vote was taken on reverting to a Christmas Fayre in 2016 and those in favour was unanimous. Raffle decision was left until January meeting after consulting Dunsop Bridge and Sabden.
- **Mass of Healing.** Susan and Peter attended this for the first time and thought it was a really wonderful celebration. Following this Mass, the SVP drew up guidelines for transporting vulnerable adults. All those with any mobility problem must be taken to the back door of the hall. More help was needed in the kitchen and it was agreed that Parishioners should be made aware that they are welcome to this event. Mass of Healing 2016 on April 24th and Sept. 25th at 2 pm.
- **Appeal for church cleaners.** More still needed. A request is to be made through school newsletter and Anne Marie Williams is trying to get mums to help on 30th Nov. It was agreed that we need to keep trying to get more in any way possible.
- **Evangelii Gaudium study sessions.** 2 sessions have taken place so far with very positive feedback. Some comments from those who attended were – Questions were challenging – good to be led by lay people for lay people – anyone attending will be enriched – great to be able to share faith with others in comfortable environment. The 99 Group will evaluate in January and there will be sessions on 3rd & 17th February and 2 in Lent. This is the first stage of the Parish moving forward in evangelization and we need to encourage more Parishioners to attend. With Fr. John's agreement, a younger parishioner will speak after Masses before the next sessions to encourage people to attend.

- **Rossendale Male Voice Choir.** Thanks to everyone involved. Ladies Group have raised £1400 for the foodbank through this and other events. Cheque to be presented.
- **Coffee Morning.** Thanks to the Browns who raised £600+ for sponsorship of our Indian Seminarian. There is a picture of him in the Church porch. Excess funds will be carried over to next year.
- Concern has been expressed about the number of collections and fund raising we have. Different feelings were expressed and it was agreed that there is a need to be vigilant. Also, parishioners need to be clear as to what they are contributing.

7. Announcements

- a) Parish Supper - This was not held last year because of lack of enthusiasm. After a discussion and some suggestions (quiz, entertainment between courses....) it was proposed that we should have a Parish Supper in 2016 and this was carried with 19 in favour.
- b) St. Mary's Christmas Fayre, 5th December 2 – 4 pm, fantastic raffle, Fr. Christmas between 2 and 3pm.
- c) St. Mary's host Sabden Service of Light 4pm Sunday 29th Nov.
- d) Jimmy Cricket will be entertaining on 29th Jan. 2016. Please support.
- e) Norman Dudman maintains the gardens in front of Church, they always look lovely. Thanks to him from the Parish for keeping this area so nice.

8. Universe in Clitheroe Library. Arnold has been putting this in library for 30 years. Recently it has not been on display. Arnold was told that having a religious paper on display was discriminatory and it could be asked for. Lou agreed to address this with Churches Together and a number of people agreed to go into the library each week and ask for the paper.

9. Proposal by Anthony Brown for major discussion of his tabled paper: Evangelisation, Parish Groups and the Year of Mercy. Anthony had tabled a paper on this but we did not go through it at length as some of it had already been discussed in relation to the study sessions. He pointed out that Diocese has reorganized its structures for Evangelisation. The Parish website is an excellent way of reaching people, enabling them to know what is going on and encouraging more involvement. We have 10 groups listed on our website and some have links to other sites. Following the recent atrocities in France the Scouts used the tri-color on their page as a mark of Unity and respect. Using the website in this way is evangelising. Groups not represented on the website are Prolife, APF Missions, Brownies, RCIA, Marriage Preparation, Sacramental Programme, Baptism Preparation, and Church. Margaret D and Susan Fellows to contact these for their details and information. At the end of Mass we are directed "Let us go now and spread the Gospel by the way we live our lives" We do this individually, in groups and as a Parish.

18. Date and Venue of next Meetings
7.30pm

Sabden – 20th Jan. 2016

(It was agreed to decide the date of following meeting with Fr. John)

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm