

**Present:** Fr John, Michael Bradley, Margaret Donnelly, Bernard Mercer, Teresa Mercer, Lou Marsden, Jane Brown, Andrew Brown, Janet Clegg, Ena Davies, Jean Luciani, Daphne Marsden, Betty Collinson, Carol Hartley, Neil Wallace, Peter Donnelly, Joan Leeming, Carol Riley, Michael Pilling, Ann Cooke, Arnold Marsden, Christine Willman, Anthony Brown, Sheila Shore, Tom Clay, Maureen Mercer,

1. Anthony Brown opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting .

3. **Apologies:** Grace & Susan Fellows, Phil Withers, Kathryn Clay, Susan & Peter White, Anne Precious, Marie Valolin, Patsy Holgate, Meriel Woodward, Mark Wiggins, Andrew & Antony Brown.

4. **Minutes of meeting held on July 5<sup>th</sup>** were accepted as a true record after the following amendments –

*Pro-Life Anthony Brown informed us that the latest proposal in this country was to decriminalize abortion which would leave the way open for abortion up to full term for any reason. Abortion up to full term is already legal for babies with a disability.*

*AOB On July 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting between Caritas Anti-Trafficking, the Santa Maria Group, Police and religious to explore the potential of our Parish anti-trafficking for wider use.*

#### 5. Matters Arising:

- **Mass times** It was necessary for Fr. J to change these because of the fall in attendance and drop in collection. Very few people attended the Sunday evening Mass so this Mass has been discontinued and Mass is at 5pm on Saturday at Clitheroe and at 6.30 on Saturday at Dunsop. Sunday times remain the same.
- **Parish Youth Rep.** Anthony Brown has accepted this role but as he is working in Cumbria during the week he will only be available at weekends.
- **Luxury Flats.** Currently awaiting Highways Dept. report.
- **Christmas Fayre.** Daphne thanked Carole and Janet, who have resigned, for all their work over many years. New fund raising ideas are needed and after some discussion it was decided that parishioners are consulted. Margaret agreed to write a “back page”, immediately if possible, explaining the situation and appealing for help and ideas.
- **Sponsored Walk.** This is being organised by Meriel on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. for Caritas mother and Baby Unit. Sponsor forms available.
- **Peace Garden.** The aim of this at St. Augustines is to draw Parishes and School closer together. Neil volunteered to be our representative on the St. Augustine’s Forum.

#### 6. Review of Recent Events.

- **Mass of Healing.** An excellent afternoon. 100 housebound and helpers attended with more wheelchairs than at previous Masses. Some concern

expressed that there were possibly too many hymns and insufficient time to socialise. Peter suggested that when we are visiting we get feedback on this from those who attended. Concern was also expressed that the disabled and mens toilets were not clean and that the kitchen needed to be cleaned before the tea was prepared. It was suggested that those doing coffee after Mass check toilets before locking up.

- **Ladies Group.** A successful Treasure Hunt was enjoyed by 38 people and the Tea Dance was attended by 48 people. Future events are the Rossendale Male Voice Choir on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct. and an afternoon Cabaret Show on 26<sup>th</sup> Oct.

## **7. Advent & Christmas.**

- Dunsop Carols with Slaidburn Silver Band Sunday Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> , 6 to 7pm followed by mince pies etc.
- Clitheroe Rotary Civil Carol Service, Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.
- Clitheroe Children's Carol Service, Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. 3 to 4pm
- Sabden Service of Light (date to be arranged)
- Christmas Mass Times – **Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec.** 5pm Clitheroe, 6.30pm Dunsop. **Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec.** 4pm & 6pm Clitheroe, 8pm Sabden. **Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Dec.** 8am Dunsop, 10am Clitheroe.

## **8. Ecumenical Relations.**

The CCP meet 3 times a year. Fr. J will be unable to attend these in future as he needs to cut down on the huge number of meetings he attends. It is important that Parishioners take on these meetings and a notice will be highlighted in the news letter when they occur.

**9. Mary's Meals.** This Charity provides a meal a day for a child in school. Knights have run two jumble sales a year for Mary's meals but these are to be discontinued. Arnold will organize one on 4<sup>th</sup> November. Several people offered help with this.

**10. Baptismal Preparation Programme.** Bishop John has asked for a change in this and emphasis to be put on Family Life rather than on Doctrine. Parents are required to come to Mass for 6 Sundays. Fr. John asked that we invite these new parents in for coffee after Mass to help them to meet parishioners and start to become members of our parish community. Jean suggested we hold a talent show for our young people. Discuss at next forum.

**10. Refugees.** Tom C has received many thanks from Refugees for the Refugee Day. One said the day had restored their faith in humanity. Other parishes are adopting a similar format. Tom and Kathryn, who have done amazing things over the last 2 years, are moving to Wales so new organizers are needed. There is need to support the small number of refugees we have in Clitheroe. A small group who will make a fast response is necessary. Anyone interested to speak to Tom after the meeting.

**11. Election of Chairman.** Mike's 3 year term of office as Chair ends this year. Election will take place at Forum on 15<sup>th</sup> November. Nominations of anyone who has been asked and is willing to stand to be brought to the meeting and there will be a ballot.

**12. Parish Social Centre.** This is doing well but has been hit by the opening of Holme's Mill and bookings are down. It lost £10,000 last year. Many people still regard the Centre as a venue for Catholics so it will be renamed and marketed as "The Old School Room" with St. Michael & St. John's in small letters underneath. The Centre is a business venture and we must compete with the market if we are to stay open. There was a lot of concern expressed about the cleanliness of the toilets and the kitchen. This is a matter that cannot be resolved at the forum. Committee have a plan in place.

**13. Road Closure.** As a result of a recent Ofsted Inspection, between Church and Bailey Fold will be closed at night time. Arnold suggested that the residents of Bailey Fold be informed as a matter of courtesy. School to be asked to do this.

#### **14. AOB**

- **Sabden Flower Festival** will be a three day event on Fri. 20<sup>th</sup> to Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. There will be workshops, demonstrations etc and it will be a fabulous event.
- **Pro Life** It is 50 years since the Abortion Act. There will be a mass lobby in London on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. Group are writing to our MP to ensure that he attends and votes against the new bill.
- **Knit, Stitch and Natter** for Syrian refugees is every Monday at St Mary's Hall, Sabden, from 10.15 to 12.00
- **Our Faith, Our Planet, Our Community**, Monday 25 September, 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm, at Salford Cathedral, is a recommended multi faith event which will inform our thinking on Laudato Si.
- **The Caritas Refugee Newsletter** features our Parish and many other initiatives and is available on the OLOTV website.
- Mike thanked everyone for their input and involvement. He stressed our need to support Fr. John in every way possible as he has a demanding, difficult job.

**23. Dates of next Meeting.**

**Wed. 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – 7.30 pm**

**Wed. 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018**

The meeting closed at 9 pm