

Pro-Life Meeting, October 3, 2019

Present: Arnold Marsden, Maureen Mercer, Mary O'Reilly, Anthony Brown, Lewis Guest
Apologies: Theresa Mercer

Letter of thanks from Right to Life

Maureen read out the letter from Moira, Right to Life, thanking Fr Corcoran and parishioners for £3,673 from the sponsored walk.

Pro-Life Sponsored Walk

Apparently following discussion between Fr John and David Alton next year's Right to Life walk will be held from Stonyhurst. Whilst acknowledging this decision would ease the burden on the current ageing organisers, the meeting felt that they should have been consulted. This change was heard first when David Alton announced it on the day. A large number of questions were raised:

- What organising is required for running walk – stewards and the selection of a route of 6 to 7 miles
- Provision of catering.
- Catering expense
- Public access to school / necessary procedures and arrangements
- Pass on to Frances O'Hern?
- Clearing up, separate vehicles for bringing people back if needed.
- Question of asking people to bring own provisions
- Suggestion that all involvement be passed over to new organisers
- Further clarification needed from David Alton as to who is responsible for what
- Moira brings more than half the participants

Anthony to send David Alton an email making it clear that our responsibility will be limited to providing participants and raising sponsorship money?

Appeal from the pulpit

The SVP speak from the pulpit and we should seek to see if Pro-Life might similarly do so.

What can be done to increase group numbers?

Membership of the group is small for a Mass attending population of 430 and needs to be bigger to create more impact. Some ideas:

- Newsletter back page linked to an appeal from the pulpit.
- Involve other churches in Clitheroe before the walk next year.
- What do other Christian churches think on life issues? There has been little sign of support previously.
- Muslim support for pro life. Invite representative from Mosque?

Anthony Brown to raise at CCP.
Anthony Brown to see advice from Tom Clay.

Possible event with speaker / meal / fundraiser

Whom could we ask to be the speaker? David Alton is local, but we would need to ensure a decent number of attendees if he were to come.

Importance of having some kind of forthcoming event in order to retain interest of any new group members coming in.

Possibly having day of prayer before the walk?

Lent / stations – opportunity for passing on pro life message?

Day for Prayer

St Hilda's, Whitby had a good pro life talk which was appropriate for children

Suggestion we should find right day for us rather than referencing other dates

Ask Father Frankie to be a speaker?

Approach St Hilda's to learn more

Mother and baby home

People in our Parish and in Clitheroe are generous and have freely donated to Mary with £400 cash, plus private donations in sealed envelopes, prams, nappies from food bank.

People have been made aware via newsletter and word of mouth.