

## MINUTES OF PARISH FORUM MEETING    October 1<sup>st</sup> 2014

**Present:** Mgr J Corcoran, Peter White, Margaret Donnelly, Arnold Marsden, Janet Clegg, Susan White, Peter Donnelly, Carol Riley, Toni O'Donnell, Anne Southworth, Les & Betty Collinson, Janet Clegg, Elsie Thompson, Anne Harkin Daphne & Lou Marsden, Teresa & Bernard Mercer, Maureen Mercer, Carol Waterworth, Amanda Taylor, Sheila Shore, Fr Frankie, Christine Hartlebury.

**Apologies:** Mike Bradley, Andy Brown, Zoe Mabbot, Chris Carr

1. The meeting opened at 7.30 pm with a prayer led by Fr. John.
2. Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting
3. **Minutes** of the meeting held in June were approved and signed as a true record.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

- **Hall steps** handrails and lights now in place.
- **Website** going ahead well. Next training session on Wed. 8<sup>th</sup> Oct.
- **Volunteers** as yet nobody has come forward for any of the tasks.
- **Crucifix & Last Supper Picture** both in store as they are deemed unsuitable for the hall now.
- **Milk bottle tops** were found to be a scam.

#### **5. Review of Recent events, Clitheroe**

- **Mass of Healing.** Attended by 50 sick and housebound and 48 helpers. It was an excellent celebration, well timed and a great event bringing groups together. Problems caused by parking of disabled bus to be rectified next time.
- **Weld Day.** Good weather and a large crowd made this, as always, an enjoyable and successful event. It was noted that the collection dropped by £200 on that day.

#### **6. Review of Recent events, Sabden**

- **Social events** These have been very successful particularly the Quiz night.
- **Music License.** This must be sorted before next event. Following a residents complaint, police to verify that there was no problem

#### **7. Parish Advent Retreat.**

Barbara Mason, who will lead the retreat, spoke to the Forum. She told us that it will take the form of a Parish Mission and will begin on the Feast of Christ the King (Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>). There will be six 2 hour sessions in Church and in the Hall and will be the Kerygma Bible retreat. Its content will be the Gospels. Pope Francis said "The Word of God has the capacity to change us from within" There will be opportunity for reconciliation and renewal. All invited to come. More information on Kerygma Bible on YouTube.

## **8. Sacramental Programme**

Fr. John has met with parents of children and has explained how the programme will be run and what we hope will be gained from this. All parents agreed and now have to write to Fr. for acceptance on the course. They will commit to 2 Sunday Masses each month. After one of these Masses parents and children will go into school for an hour with catechists. Parents and children will work separately for half an hour and then come together to do the work sheets. Anyone who does not adhere to this commitment will be asked to leave the programme unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Toni O'Donnell shared her concerns about the new arrangements and particularly the withdrawal of children thus depriving them of the Eucharist. She had already written to Fr. John about this. There was some discussion and differing opinions were expressed. Fr. John emphasized that Canon Law requires that children know what they are doing when receiving the Sacrament. They can receive it after they are 12 years old. The programme is to continue as planned. Toni felt strongly that this approach is one of an unloving, uncaring, misunderstanding, Church. She and Christine Hartlebury left the meeting after the discussion.

## **9. Parish Safeguarding.**

Anne Harkin, our newly appointed Safeguarding Officer, explained that safeguarding is about protecting children and vulnerable adults. Her job is to help organizations in the Parish to ensure protection for everyone. It enables us to conform, as a Parish, with new strict rules and regulations. Diocesan policy now requires us to have an officer.

## **10. Election of Chair**

Peter White's 3 years as Chairman end on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>. The Chair cannot be re elected but the secretary can. Nominations and elections at next meeting.

## **11. Dates for Next Year**

Peter D proposed that we should have a year's calendar of events planned ahead and given to parishioners. It was agreed that a list of main Parish events is listed and displayed in the church porch and possibly in a newsletter. The following dates are already planned for 2015.

- 7<sup>th</sup> February Parish Supper
- 10<sup>th</sup> February Sacramental Programme Reconciliation (Clitheroe)
- 11<sup>th</sup> February Sacramental Programme Reconciliation (Sabden)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March Mass of Healing.
- 5<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday
- 21<sup>st</sup> May Confirmation
- 25<sup>th</sup> May Right to Life Walk
- 7<sup>th</sup> June First Communion
- 5<sup>th</sup> July Weld Day
- 27<sup>th</sup> September Mass of Healing

## 12. Future of the Forum.

Forum agreed that

- Reports should be no longer than one minute and refer only to future events.
- School reports be given at the end of Christmas and Summer terms.
- Meetings to be held every 6 weeks with a shorter agenda. Dates planned 2 meetings ahead.
- A Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and secretary to be elected at the next meeting.

## 13. Announcements

**A new Bishop, John Arnold**, has been appointed to Salford. Fr. John gave us some details of the Bishop's background which will be in the newsletter.

Annual Blackburn Pilgrimage to Walsingham on May 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. See poster at the back of church.

Carol Riley volunteered to organize refreshments for sacramental programme on one Sunday each month throughout the programme. Les Collinson and Margaret Donnelly to help when possible.

**Parish Evangelisation Group.** This group proposed that the newsletter be circulated in the wider community and, in order to encourage more participation, that one family is asked by the welcomers to do the offertory procession at the Sunday Mass. Forum suggested that school be asked to send newsletter to all families via email and also parishioners to distribute it where appropriate. Welcomers at the forum felt that they already had enough to do. Peter D and Betty C were asked to organize the offertory procession when possible after it was introduced via the newsletter.

**Clitheroe Christians in Partnership** have produced a card outlining the adverse effects of the proposed closure of the Job Centre in Clitheroe. This will be given out at the weekend Masses and all signed cards will be returned together to Steve Johnson, Cumbria and Lancs District Job Centre Manager.

**Parish 4 year Sponsorship of Seminarian.** £500 now due. Ladies have raised money from coffee morning but £240 still needed. Part of the proceeds of 18<sup>th</sup> Oct Steel Band concert will go towards this.

**War Memorial.** Peter Wright is to add the names of .....Snape and David Noon to the War Memorial before 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**HCPT Walk.** Peter W. agreed to collect sponsors from Sabden.

<b>14. Date of next Meetings</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> November 2014</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Clitheroe</b>
	<b>7<sup>th</sup> January 2015</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Sabden</b>

Meeting closed at 9.14pm.