

MINUTES OF PARISH FORUM MEETING June 4th 2014

Present: Fr J Corcoran, P.White, Z.Mabbott, K.Downes, D.Marsden, L.Marsden, S.White, C.Riley, P.Holgate, E.Davies, M.Valovin, A.Marsden, J.Clegg, E.Thomson, A.Taylor, C.Waterworth, P.Donnely, M.Donnely, P.Whitwell, A.Brown, T.Mercer, B.Mercer, M.Mercer, C.Muldoon, M.Paver

Apologies: Chris Carr Les and Betty Collinson, Mike Bradley, Peter Sutcliffe

1. The meeting opened at 7.30 pm with a prayer led by Mark.

2. Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting and Fr John particularly welcomed Zoe Maddon, our new headteacher of St. Michael & St. John's and Mark Paver, our visiting seminarian..

3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on April 9th were approved and signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

All included in the Agenda.

5. Review of Recent events, Clitheroe

- **Easter Services** were superb. All were deeply spiritual and prayerful. Altar servers were exemplary and the choir let the congregation well. School choir would like to be involved in leading the music for liturgies and we are looking towards them doing this on one Sunday a month.
- **Right for life Walk** was a very successful event, an excellent day. The walk is increasing in numbers each year. We need a rep. from Sabden. Photos on website.
- **Mass of Healing.** This was a really lovely celebration. Numbers increasing. Need to try not to have events requiring refreshments on consecutive Sundays.

6. Review of Recent events, Sabden

Nothing additional to review

7. Parish Website. Health & Safety – hall steps, Clitheroe

There is a problem with the steps at the entrance to the hall, a rail and/or a notice are required. Matter to be referred to Tony Haigan and Social Centre Committee.

Work on Dower House is now underway. Gates to be installed to cut off the lower field to deter dog walkers, parties, drinkers etc.

8. Sabden Hall Committee.

Meeting held on 3rd June. 14 nominations for committee received. All aspects of the hall were discussed. Meeting arranged on Sun 8th June to agree an evening when all 14 people can attend and allocate tasks at this initial meeting.

9. First Communions.

Next year children will not automatically be able to make their First Communion. In previous years parents have been required to sign a contract. In future Fr. John will require parents to write a letter requesting that their child be prepared for the Sacrament. Parents must attend Mass and consideration is being given to having preparation after Sunday Mass. Caroline M. told the meeting that Sabden's Sacramental Programme is very successful, parents must want to come and enjoy coming, it was felt that changes are necessary but need thought and care.

10. Parish Website

Meeting had been held with Craig who had explained admin of the new website. It is however still difficult to administer, Andy Brown felt that site went live too soon. Meeting to be arranged to try to solve problems. (later arranged for Thurs July 3rd)

11. Mass of Healing.

Arranged for Sept 28th. Hall booked, arrangements in hand.

12. Churches Together - LIPS

Peter D had attended a meeting at Clitheroe Community Church and reported on inputs from Christians against Poverty, Foodbank, Homeless, Salvation Army and PAIS. Great work is being done in the town and Peter wanted to raise awareness. He is to speak at the next meeting on the work of the SVP and also SVP is to have an information stall in the tent at the barbeque on 13th September.

13. Finance Committee

Parish require funds for major repair work and it is essential that the parish income is increased. Many more parishioners could gift aid their donations and those donating through direct debits should consider increasing amount. It was unanimously agreed that the Finance Committee proceed and address this issue with the parish. There was a short discussion on the embarrassment felt by those with direct debits who then pass on the plate. Some solutions to overcome this were suggested but left for future consideration.

14a. Autumn Fayre.

Letters are to be sent to all Parish organizations requesting involvement and suggestions for this

14b. Sabden Summer Beach Party. 14th June

15. Weld Day – 6th July

School have organized strawberries and cream, Mr. Murray has booked the icecream van. One Mass at 10.30 (Clitheroe) followed by picnic.

16. Church Benches.

Sectioned cushions for each bench awaiting delivery and trial period.

17. Parish's 4 year Sponsorship of Seminarian.

Knights donated £500 last year. Money needed for this year. Ladies agreed to co-ordinate a function, parish must be involved.

18. HCPT Walk

This takes place on 5th October and is for local people.

19. Volunteers.

- **Funerals.** Extra help is needed when Maureen or Teresa are not available to prepare everything that is needed for the service.
- **Church Cleaners.** Urgently needed to help each Monday morning.
- **Rosary Rota.** Volunteers required to lead Rosary each morning after Mass and mid-day on Saturday
- **Chair of Cafod.** A new chair person is needed for this very rewarding group. Appeal through newsletter again.

20. Maundy Grange.

Peter D. has been in touch with Mark Wiggans who told him that Maundy Grange is an independent charity that is affiliated to Caritas. The figure of £220000 needed sounds accurate. Ladies have recently raised £600 for Maundy Grange. It was suggested that ladies look into inviting Lucy to speak at a function.

21. School Reports

St. Michael & St. John's Mrs Maddon presented the following report at the beginning of the meeting, she had to leave because of other commitments.

"I am honoured to be the new Head teacher at St Michael and St John's RC primary School. I have settled well in to my new role and am thoroughly enjoying working with our amazing pupils, committed staff, and supportive families and within our parish family. Every day brings new experiences and I am enjoying being part of such a lovely school and parish. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the warm welcome I have received from everyone involved with the school and the parish.

We are very proud of our school and this year school is in the positive position of being oversubscribed in relation to the number of children wanting to attend the school in September. Sadly, this has meant that not all children who are Baptised Roman Catholic and living in the parish have been allocated a place at their first choice school. As a result, the governing body have taken the decision to review the admissions policy for the future.

We are currently in the process of appointing some Pupil Chaplains at school. This is an exciting time and the successful children will be commissioned by the Bishop at Salford on Wednesday 2nd July. We are looking forward to seeing the impact they make in school and in the parish and in the ideas they bring as ambassadors of the faith to lead developments in Worship, word, Witness, Welcome and welfare.

We continue our links with St Mary's Sabden. On Monday 14th July SSMJ and St Mary's Year 6 children will be having a retreat day before they move on to high school."

St. Mary's Sabden

- **Mass** now celebrated once a month on Wednesday, usually class Mass but sometimes whole school
- **Ofsted** were in school in May, exactly 3 years since last inspection. Report not yet official but inspection was a positive experience.
- **Pupil Numbers** Now 79 pupils on roll. 8 children to join reception in September as well as some new admissions into other years.
- **SMSJ links** In September 2015 a trip to France with both schools participating is planned. St Mary's will be following SMSJ's lead in appointing pupil chaplains.
- **End of Year** All events listed on schools excellent website.

22. Sunday Homily Group.

Forum agreed that we had excellent, thought provoking sermons and we did not need to form a homily group.

23. Reports.

Cafod: Sponsored walk Sat 21st June from Gawthorpe Gatehouse Burnley at 1 pm. Gala Concert on Sun. 22nd June by St Augustines in St George's Hall Blackburn. June 12th Abba Solomom of SEBEYA together with Temiru Legesse, Cafod's communications officer in Ethiopia will visit a Burnley Parish. Details on Cafod notice board. Cafod will run book and toy stall at school Summer Fayre

Ladies Group: 14th May – very successful outing to Leyburn and Knaresborough. Caroline and John are the new Tea Dance instructors starting on June 18th. Trip to Ulverston and Conishead Priory on 11th June. Mystery Trip with meal on 25th June. Catering for Chernobyl children's party. 28th June Bottle stall at school Summer Fayre. 6th July Strawberries at Weld Day. 28th Sept catering for Mass of Healing.

24. AOB

Anne Harkin has taken over DBSs (formally CRBs) Training required but no date for this yet.

Hall crucifix has not yet been found and a picture of the last supper is also missing. 25th August – Cemetery Mass. To be advertised.

Enough milk bottle tops have been collected for the wheelchair. Andy to look into possibility of continuing collection for Maundy Grange or other charity.

25. Date of next Meeting 1st October 2014 7.30pm Clitheroe

Meeting closed at 9.28pm.