

MINUTES OF PARISH FORUM MEETING January 10th 2015

Present: Mgr J Corcoran, Mike Bradley, Peter White, Margaret Donnelly, Arnold Marsden, Janet Clegg, Susan White, Peter Donnelly, Betty Collinson, Elsie Thompson, Daphne Marsden, Teresa & Bernard Mercer, Christine Willman, Andy Brown, Jane & Andrew Brown, S Broughton, Fr. Frankie Mulgrew, S & J Hall, C Walerworth, C Muldoon, A Taylor, S Brown, A Galea, M Parsons, M Waling, P Whitwell, M Pilling, M & P Wiggin, D Buggie, Anthony Brown, J Haythornthwaite.

Apologies: Maureen Mercer Les Collinson, Lou Marsden.

1. The meeting opened at 7.30 pm with a prayer for guidance led by Fr. John.
2. Mike welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the New Year.
3. **Minutes** of the meeting held in November were quickly read, were approved and signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

5. Christian Unity Week.

This has been adopted by the World Council of Churches and is held throughout the world. It commences in Clitheroe on Sat. 17th Jan. and we are invited to attend services in different churches. Monday will be in SSMJ and will be a Eucharistic Service. The main service is in UCR on Sunday 24th Jan. Sabden's Unity Service is at 3pm Sunday 18th Jan.

6. Lent Services.

- Ash Wednesday – Clitheroe, 9.15 am & 7.30 pm. Sabden, 11 am.
- Stations of the Cross each Friday at 7.30 pm led by different groups. Maureen Mercer to organize this. Sabden will lead one of Clitheroes Stations and will have Stations at Sabden each Tuesday at 7.30pm. Groups invited to lead these.
- 10th Feb - Reconciliation in Clitheroe, 11th Feb – Reconciliation in Sabden.
- 22nd March – Mass of Healing. SVP, Knights, Ladies and Choir to organize as last time.
- Holy Week – Discuss at next meeting.

7. Anthony Brown - TRAFFIK.

Anthony spoke to the Forum on trafficking today in our country and in our area. World wide modern day slavery is bigger now than at any other time, it is demand led, it happens here, the Catholic Church is doing more than any other organization to combat it. UK is the prime destination for Trafficking. People are brought to UK from Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and South America for sex and human slavery. There have been instances of trafficking in Burnley, Preston and Rochdale. Pope Benedict said "Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ. It is a crime against humanity."

Anthony presented alarming facts and statistics. Vatican Conference, CBCEW, Caritas, the Medaille Trust and CSAN are working to raise awareness and combat trafficking.

Within our Parishes we can

- Pray
- Be aware of what is going on and what the Catholic Church is doing.
- Know the signs.

- Volunteer
- Lobby and Petition
- Donate

Anthony proposes to start a Parish Anti-Trafficking Group to work with Bishop's initiative. It will have a page on the parish website. He asked people to sign to belong to this group and do as much of the above as possible . He emphasized awareness raising. It will not involve meetings.

Mark Wiggin of Caritas spoke of their involvement, Diocese now have 2 houses for housing people who have been trafficked.

Sean Hall, Detective Inspector responsible for Child Abuse and trafficking in East Lancashire spoke of the range of abuse. It is a social issue as well as a police issue.

8. Consultation on Marriage.

Fr. John circulated a paper from the Bishop. "The Call, the Journey and the Mission" This is an invitation from the Bishops for us to reflect, in our Parishes, on the Gift of Marriage and Family Life. After reading the paper there was an honest and sensitive discussion on marriage and the family today compared to 50 years ago, the reasons for the changes and the many concerns. We considered the 6 questions we are invited to reflect on and the ways we can do this in our Parish, reaching as many people as possible. It was agreed that the "99" Group, which already meets to look at evangelization, would look at the 6 questions, reword them if necessary and prepare 6 questionnaires, each with one question, to be given out during the 6 weeks of Lent. These will be given out at all Masses and school will be asked to circulate them through the school email. Questionnaires to be returned before Easter and the "99" Group, along with anyone interested, will put together our Parishes response to the Bishop.

9. AOB, There was no other business.

10. Date and Venue on next meeting.

Wednesday March 11th 7.30pm Clitheroe

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm