

**Sacred Heart and St Antony's Joint Parishes**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 4.00 pm**

**Present:** Mgr Bernard Massey (Priest of the Joint Parishes)

**PPC members**

**Sacred Heart:** Christine Cronin, Jane Dyer (Minutes), David Gabriel, Roger Mason, Chris Menzies, Frank Tothill (Chair).

**St Antony's:** Bernard Thomas.

**Parishioners:** 28

**Apologies for Absence**

Sue King, Petronella Mason, Jacek Miotla, Gill Preisner.

**1 Opening Prayer**

Mgr Bernard opened the meeting with prayers and the Lord's Prayer.

**2 Welcome and Introduction**

Frank Tothill welcomed those present and thanked Jon Wilson from the Social Committee for providing cream teas.

**3 Acceptance of Minutes of 2013 AGM**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2013 were accepted and signed by Frank Tothill.

**4 Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**5 Parish Reports**

Following a request at the 2013 AGM, reports had been obtained from various Parish groups. These reports will be added to the Parish website and copies will also be available at the back of the church.

Mgr Bernard made the following additional points:

- a) *Sacred Heart 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:* see Item 9 below.
- b) *Parish Website:* 23,500 thousand visits had been received over the past 21 months with the calendar, the front sheet and the contact page being the most popular.
- c) *Food Bank:* in excess of 2 tons of food had been donated over the last few months.
- d) *Alterations at St Antony's:* proposed to widen the entrance and to have 4 reserved car parking spaces for impaired mobility users – a start date for these alterations is currently awaited.
- e) *Newman Hall flat:* possible plan to convert this to 2-3 units of student bedsitter accommodation which could bring in £5000 each per annum – this work would necessitate a loan from the Diocese. The question arose as to whether these plans would include the Parish Room and discussion followed regarding the usage of not only the Parish Room but also the Newman Hall by various Parish groups. A number of suggestions were made such as partitioning the Newman Hall, solar heating; it was felt that a balance needed to be kept between hire of the Newman Hall to outside groups and use of the same by Parish groups.

Mgr Bernard also mentioned his idea for extending the Presbytery to provide more space for Little Church as well as other groups.

It was agreed that feasibility studies be carried out regarding use of the Parish Room and possible extension of the Presbytery.

## **6 Acceptance of Parish Accounts**

Gerry Calderbank, Sacred Heart Treasurer, distributed Income & Expenditure figures and the Balance Sheet for 2013. He reported that 60% of the Offertory Donations were Gift Aided and this figure rose to 64% if the Tax Refunds shown were included: a further tax refund for 2013 was still due. He mentioned that most of our Poor Plate collections had gone to Fr Danny O'Sullivan's parish in Peru (our Parish Project). Fr Danny has told us that he is leaving Peru: we will therefore need to decide whether to find another project or donate all of the funds to the poor in this country. He advised that our Diocesan Levy in 2014 will be £27,756 (an increase of £3,428) but that it now includes £2,329 being our Priests' Pension Scheme contribution (previously a separate expenditure item in the Accounts). He explained how the Diocesan Levy is calculated.

The question arose as to whether the Parish is generating enough income to cover expenses: Gerry Calderbank replied that the Parish is partly living off the interest from investments – hence the recent fund raising campaign regarding weekly giving and Gift Aid.

It was noted that the income from the Presbytery at St Antony's goes directly to the Diocese to offset the loan and that the weekly collection goes towards utilities expenses.

Acceptance of the Parish Accounts was proposed by Chris Torpy and seconded by Antonio Orlando.

## **7 Newman Hall**

Chris Torpy distributed the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013. He reported on the BIFFA Award grant of £10,000 which was used to upgrade the boilers and the heating system. This had followed the grant awarded for 2012 which had been used to replace fire doors, doors and double glazing. It is hoped that a further grant will be awarded this year which will be used to renew the roof over the stage and renovate the paths around the back of the Hall. It is hoped that redecorating will take place next year.

Chris Torpy drew the attention of those present to his Diary of Events for the Newman Hall which is produced monthly.

## **8 Election of PPC Members**

Frank Tothill advised that Roger Mason and Petronella Mason would be standing down from the PPC; he thanked them for their efforts and contributions.

All other PPC members had expressed a willingness to continue on the PPC.

Fiona McDonald expressed a wish to serve on the PPC.

Election of PPC Members was proposed by Kate Painter and seconded by Pat Powell.

## **9 Sacred Heart 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Mgr Bernard informed those present that it was the Sacred Heart 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and that celebrations would commence on the Feast of the Sacred Heart on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Suggestions for marking the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary included: a display of Little Church work; archive photo display; flower festival; special flower display over the Christmas period where parishioners could purchase a pot cyclamen in memory of a loved one; two parish social events; 40 hours Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

## **10 Any Other Business**

Mgr Bernard was asked about Mass attendance figures following on from his report at the 2013 AGM that the two parishes had lost around 50 people due to the changes: he drew attention to the figures in his current report and advised that there was a steady increase in Mass attendance figures.

Mgr Bernard was asked about the success of the recent fund raising campaign: he replied that this was still ongoing and that no analysis was yet available.

It was noted that the St Antony's 100 Club has around 60 members: parishioners were encouraged to join.

It was noted that a lot of maintenance needs to be carried out at St Antony's and it was suggested that a list of requirements be drawn up for the attention of the Finance and Fabric Committee.

## **11 Closing Prayer**

Mgr Bernard closed the meeting with prayers including a Hail Mary