

Sacred Heart and St Antony's Joint Parishes Pastoral Council
Minutes of Meeting
Sunday 1st February 2015

Present: **Priest of the Parishes**
Mgr Bernard Massey

Sacred Heart

Chris Menzies (Chair), Jane Dyer (Minutes), Christine Cronin, David Gabriel, Fiona McDonald, Jacek Miotla, Gill Preisner.

St Antony's

Sue King, Petronella Mason, Bernard Thomas.

1 Opening prayer

Mgr Bernard opened the meeting with prayers including the Our Father.

2 Apologies for absence

Frank Tothill (SH).

3 Minutes of previous Meeting held 30th November 2014

These were accepted and signed as a true record.

4 Matters arising

a) Reports from Parish Committees

Finance & Fabric: the next meeting will be on 13th February

Finances

- The financial position of both parishes is sound with income exceeding expenditure over the past year.
- Accounts for the year should be ready by the next F&F Committee meeting on 13th February when the budget for the coming year will also be agreed.

Repairs

- The brickwork above the entrance and the side area of the Sacred Heart church will be repaired (hopefully within the next 2 weeks).

Alterations to Narthex at Sacred Heart

- Renovation work to improve the Narthex will commence in the next 2-3 weeks – this will include:
 - Insertion of glass panels to internal double doors;
 - replacement of noticeboards with digital displays;
 - replacement of flooring with barrier matting;
 - decorating of Narthex;
 - re-varnishing of exterior doors.
- The Confessional will also be decorated and will be altered to allow for 'face to face' confessions if desired.
- It was noted that the digital displays will be 'on' whenever the church is open.

Catechetical: this group had met on 6th January.

Lent

- No Lent talks this year; there will be a Parish event in the summer to explore the relevance of Church teaching to the realities of modern family life (following the Bishops' Conference on the family last October).
- Working party to meet on 24th February to discuss all aspects of the event.
- Handouts to be produced and a notice to be inserted in the newsletter.

Action: Mgr Bernard

CAFOD

- Pancake Supper to be held at Sacred Heart on Shrove Tuesday evening.
- Three Lenten Hunger Lunches planned:
 - Sacred Heart on Fridays 27th February and 6th March following Mass at 12 noon;
 - St Antony's on Saturday 21st March following CAFOD Stations of the Cross.
- CAFOD Cake Sale on Sunday 22nd March.
- Fairtrade Fortnight is 23 February – 8 March: Fairtrade products will be on sale after 9.15 Sunday Mass during this time (date subsequently fixed for 22nd February).
- Noted that money raised for CAFOD Lent appeal will be match funded by the Government to the sum of £3.5 million (this sum has now been raised to £5 million).

Liturgy: this group had met on 28th January and the next meeting is scheduled for 5th March.

Advent/Christmas

- The Christingle Service attendance was up to 75 from 59.
- Penitential services well received – propose next time to have special penitential ceremony for young children within the service.
- Christmas service numbers reflect trend for families with young children choosing to attend early Mass on Christmas Eve.
- Christmas plants idea was good but size of plant did not create desired impact.

First Holy Communion

- The new programme has started with 20 children.

Baptisms

- There had been 38 baptisms last year – highest for 40 years.

Lent

- Stations of the Cross and Exposition will be similar to last year.
- Current Stations at the Sacred Heart to be replaced with posters for the period of Lent – original Stations will be returned for Easter.
- Mgr Bernard will produce a Lenten calendar. **Action: Mgr Bernard**
- Penitential services to be held in week before Holy Week.
- Ash Wednesday services to be 9.15 at St Antony's and 12 noon at Sacred Heart.

Social: see under 75th Anniversary below

b) Memorial Garden (Sacred Heart Church)

- Initial work is complete – ground and plants to be left for 12 months in order to settle and establish.
- Possible service of blessing before Easter.
- Mgr Bernard to invite comments/ideas from those who have purchased plots. **Action: Mgr Bernard**

5 Sacred Heart Church 75th Anniversary

30th January 2015 – Giuseppe Fricelli Concert followed by Wine and Cheese

- About 120 people had attended this excellent concert which was much enjoyed.

1st February 2015 – Mass celebrating Baptism followed by Children's Party

- The Children's Party had been a great success – the entertainment had been excellent – about 60 children had signed up to attend.

6 Any Other Business

Newsletter

- List of sick members to remain in the Narthex but is available from the Parish Office if required – notice in newsletter to be amended to clarify this and also the fact that only those sick members who have requested prayers are on the list. **Action: Jane**

Ministry of Welcome

- Chris and Jane had met for discussions following which ideas for consideration had been circulated to Council members with the Agenda.
- Agreed that the proposed renovation work to the Narthex at the Sacred Heart would make for a much more welcoming feeling.
- Possibly hold meetings for church ministers to provide opportunity for reflection on the 'welcome' aspect of each ministry.
- Consider having 'welcome' leaflets available. **Action: Chris/Jane**

Annual General Meeting 31st May 2015

- Reports and Financial Statements to be prepared as last year – Jo to be asked to contact relevant people. **Action: Jane/Jo**
- Format to be as last year with teas being served at 4pm followed by meeting at 4.30pm (Jo to liaise with Gill and Jon Wilson). **Action: Jo**

Parish Website

- 42,000 hits to date.
- Updates to be made and the newsletter to be on front page.
- Mgr Bernard's homilies to be recorded – these will be accessible for one week following delivery.

Newman Hall

- Parishes to have regular monthly dates pre-booked – these would be 'handed back' if not required. **Action: Mgr Bernard**

St Antony's

- Bernard outlined a number of forthcoming events on the St Antony's Event Calendar commencing with a Film Night on Wednesday 11th February – events will be notified in the newsletter.

7 Date of Next Meeting

Sunday 22nd March at 7.30 pm in the Sacred Heart Presbytery.

8 Closing Prayer

Mgr Bernard closed the meeting with prayers including the Glory Be.