

Sacred Heart and St Antony's Joint Parishes Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting

Sunday 27th July 2014

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

Sacred Heart

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

St Antony's

Sue King, Bernard Thomas.

1 Opening prayer

Mgr Bernard opened the meeting with prayers including a Hail Mary.

2 Apologies for absence

Petronella Mason (St A's), Jacek Miotla (SH).

3 Minutes of previous Meeting held 1st June 2014

These were accepted and signed as a true record.

4 Matters arising

a) Reports from Parish Committees

Finance & Fabric: this group had met on 11th July – the next meeting is scheduled for 26th September.

Finances

- Reported that the current state of the finances of both parishes is healthy;
- As a result of the recent appeal, about 30 more parishioners had signed up to Gift Aid donations with an increase of about £9500 per annum over both parishes.

Repairs

- Repairs to the stained glass window in the Baptistry at the Sacred Heart are nearly complete – the word 'Dei' has still to be etched on;
- Repairs to the stained glass windows at St Antony's are taking longer than expected due to difficulties in matching colours and style of glass;
- Quotes for repairs to the guttering at the Sacred Heart Church have been received;
- Reported that the new stairway at St Antony's has a crack – this will be kept under observation; also noted that a further hand rail is required.

Flat above Newman Hall

- The possibility of converting the flat on the top floor of the Newman Hall into student accommodation is being considered;
- This would provide housing for 3 persons at a rental of £5000 per person per annum;
- However, it was noted that the Parish Room would have to form part of this plan.

Catechetical: this group had met on 24th June – the next meeting is scheduled for 2nd September.

First Holy Communion

- The group had followed last year's programme which was very good;
- Increase time devoted to Reconciliation;
- Need for session with parents of group at the start and finish of the programme with Q&A paper.

Confirmation

- The group had been lively and questioning and had developed well;
- Need to replace the DVD used as it is becoming rather 'dated';
- Post Confirmation session to be arranged to ask the group how they wish to progress. Date set for 14th September

Sacred Heart 75th Anniversary

- This to be marked with series of talks/discussions on Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Evangelii Gaudium*, to be led by David Culley;
- There will be six sessions to be held on alternate Tuesdays (commencing 9th September) after 7 pm Mass; Note change of start date to 23rd September
- Posters to be displayed in the narthex and handouts to be available from 24th August – also entries in the Newsletter;
- Possibly a short promotional talk from the pulpit on the 2 Sundays preceding the start of the talks.

Training of Readers

- Mgr Bernard is planning for Cathy Lawson to lead training of Readers.

Faith Page

- A Faith Page on the Website to be considered.

Liturgy: this group had met on 4th June – the next meeting is scheduled for 10th September.

- Recent involvement of Little Church at 9.15 am Mass had been lovely and they should be encouraged to do more.
- Need to involve more people as Welcomers and in taking up the Offertory at the weekday Masses. Chris and Jane to look at available information on the Ministry of Welcome.
- Musicians to take a break for the month of August.
- Mgr Bernard wishes to replace the notice boards in the narthex with display screens at both Sacred Heart and St Antony's.

Social: this group had not met but it was noted that:

- The Cheese and Wine get-together in the Presbytery after the Celebration Mass on 27th June had been a great success.
- The Parish Family Day on Sunday, 29th June, had also been a great success.

b) Recruitment of Altar Servers/Readers/Eucharistic Ministers/Little Church Helpers

- There are 3 new Altar Servers at Sacred Heart and 2 Altar Servers about to be trained at St Antony's.
- There are a few extra Readers at St Antony's.
- The 9.15 am Mass at Sacred Heart now has 8 Eucharistic Ministers – noted that these go into the Sacristy to cleanse the vessels.
- Noted that still more Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers and Readers are needed for the 11.15 am Mass at Sacred Heart – especially young people.
- Need to ensure that the sick of St Antony's parish are taken communion.
- An aide memoire to be prepared for all Eucharistic Ministers.

Action: Mgr Bernard

c) Inventories for both Churches and Halls

These were now completed.

d) Parishioner Data for both Churches

The data obtained from the forms had now been input onto the office computer – this data will now be transferred to a new program which will maximise the usefulness of the information.

e) Memorial Garden (Sacred Heart Church)

Discussion took place on the proposal for a Memorial Garden (possibly to include a 'Living Wall'). The plan is to use the area between the church and the boundary wall and to replace the existing tarmac with stone chippings and a grassed area for the burial of ashes (plaques of those interred there would be affixed to the church wall). The cost of this work would be largely met by sale of plots which parishioners would be encouraged to purchase. Christine submitted draft drawings and quotes for consideration regarding the 'Living Wall' and will look into the possibility of creating our own.

f) St Antony's Summer Draw

This had been a great success and had raised £1504 – it had been agreed that 20% of the proceeds would go to the Sacred Heart with the remainder to St Antony's. Thanks were expressed to all who had helped or sponsored prizes. The local MP, Charlotte Leslie, had attended and a letter of thanks would be sent to her.

Action: Bernard

5 Sacred Heart Church 75th Anniversary

27th June Feast of the Sacred Heart (start of Anniversary)

This had been a spiritual and social success. The Mass had been a joyful occasion with about 80 parishioners attending – the Wine & Cheese afterwards was excellent with about 60 parishioners staying on for this.

29th June Parish Family Day

This too had been a great success with about 70 parishioners attending.

20th September – Trip to Minehead

48 seater coach has been booked – list in the narthex for people to sign up – notice in Newsletter.

15th October – Vigil of Memorial of St Margaret Mary Alacoque

Exposition and Prayers followed by a Curry Supper.

Other celebrations have been planned and all events are outlined on the Diary of Events (published in the form of a Bookmark).

6 Any Other Business

Mass Intentions

Several parishioners had requested that the names of those for whom the Mass is intended be announced at the start of the service. Mgr Bernard pointed out that Mass Intentions are put in the Newsletter as well as on the Mass sheet in the narthex; also that where it is a Memorial Mass the names are included in the Bidding Prayers. He emphasised that Mass is said for all people, the church and the world.

Funeral Dates

A request was made for funeral dates to be put on the Website calendar as soon as they are known to enable people to make arrangements to attend.

Action: Jo

Second Collections

It was noted that a reminder list detailing the Second Collection weeks is now available to assist those preparing the weekly Newsletter.

7 Date of Next Meetings

Sunday 21st September, and Sunday 30th November 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Sacred Heart Presbytery.

8 Closing Prayer

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