

OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA, WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council, held at St Joseph's hall

On 23rd February 2016 at 7.00 pm.

Persons Present: Pauline Toohey, Joe O'Brien, John Jenkins, Mary Wilkins, Deacon Jonathan de Kretser, Anne Hall and Alicia Watkins.

1. Opening Prayer: Deacon Jonathan de Kretser opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies for Absence: Father Stephen, Judith Boichot, Jim Logan, Michael Scully, John Always and Deacon Geoffrey Carey.

3. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on the 29th September 2015 and were approved unanimously. A copy of the minutes was then displayed on the notice board and on the Parish web site.

4. Matters arising from the last meeting: Deacon Jonathan asked about whether a parish database exists. Anne Hall replied there was one but the information held on it was private and the parish had to be careful how it was used. Deacon Jonathan suggested that emailing individuals to invite them to special parish masses, to try to encourage more families and individuals back to the church. Using the information such as dates of First Holy Communion children, Confirmation candidates, Weddings, Baptism Anniversaries. Anne Hall said not all the information had been added to the database, as it takes time to do and there was a box of papers yet to be added. Deacon Jonathan suggested a youth of the parish to do the updating for the parish. There was mixed feelings on this and everyone was reminded of the information being private and whether it was a younger person or older person it was confidential. Deacon Jonathan suggested a youth as they are so much quicker typing on the computer and was trying to encourage younger help.

Alicia said that in Poland they celebrated an Anniversary mass for the First Holy Communion children and thought it would be good to do the same here.

Parish Pilgrimage: Anne Hall said there had only been around a dozen parishioners who had shown interest in a pilgrimage, but varying in preference as to where.

Cycle rack: Deacon Jonathan mentioned that there is need for a cycle rack for approximately four bicycles to be purchased and fitted at the side of the church to the right of the side doors. Mary Wilkins said she would ask her husband about cost of making one and fitting it. She would report back to Jonathan.

Christmas party: Alicia was asked about joining the Polish St Nicholas Christmas party with the parish children. It was suggested that it would be discussed further at the September meeting.

5. Where are we with parish Evangelisation? The small group who are the nucleus of a Parish Evangelisation team have been looking at and discussing setting up two Catholic Alpha Courses. The first will run from 13th April until the 15th June and is aimed primarily at our First Holy Communion parents and other parents. The other from September through to November aimed at all ages.

6. What are we doing for the Year of Mercy? In line with other parishes throughout the diocese we are having Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday evenings throughout Lent with Confessions available as Reconciliation is the key to Mercy. Also on the Sunday after Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, the picture of Divine Mercy will be hung in the sanctuary and Novena to the Divine Mercy promulgated. Any other suggestions at this stage are most welcome. Everyone was content with the arrangements.

7. Update on St Augustine's: The Parish Finance Committee have once again written to the Bishop informing him of the Quinquennial inspection and the outcome that suggests that we need to spend approximately £180,000 on repairs to the buildings and requesting once again to sell the building. The Bishop has replied a copy of his letter is available.

A copy was handed to all members present to read and then comment.

The members are concerned as to who is responsible/liable for the financial responsibility if a court order was issued for the repairs. At present we can only see members of this parish paying towards the repairs. The previous comments made still stand on the feelings of this matter.

All copies of the letter was handed back to the chair.

Meanwhile since the auctions have now finished Father has given instructions for St Augustine's church to be emptied of all rubbish and made tidy.

8. Payment of DBS certificates? : These certificates are paid for by the parish.

9. Possible payment for Catechists for the Confirmation retreat? Approximately £150 for the weekend and with the Catechists giving up their time to go on this retreat, should they pay themselves? The general consensus was they shouldn't have to pay themselves. It was felt that maybe the candidates should pay something towards the cost where possible.

10. Faith – Café link: This is a twelve week course meeting notebook video. The Alpha programme replacing this at the moment.

11. Possible contribution to CAP (Christians Against Poverty): Father has no objections to a contribution being made but feels that it is something we should put to the parish and ask for contributions. Suggested a collection after mass.

12. Any other business: The Mother Circle two asked if the 8am mass could have no music. The members of the council discussed how a lot of time had gone into the preparation to have music and positive comments had been made about the music. It was decided that it would remain at present.

Deacon Johnathan had been asked by a parishioner if a Panasonic WiFi module could be purchased for the projector in the parish hall. This would enable a better reception, colour in films being watched and enable any visitors using a lap top to move around the room when presenting power points. The cost would be £150. The council members thought this would be of benefit to the parishioners and agreed that it should go to the finance committee for approval.

Joe O'Brien mentioned that there had been several instances when cars were parking next to the building and blocking access to the side of the church, making it impossible for wheelchair users to get round. It was suggested that maybe lines be painted to stop parking there but several members felt this would not work

and cars would still block access. Another suggestion was to rope or fence it off but allowing wheelchair access and pedestrian access, particularly the children going to and from the hall for liturgy safely. No final decision was made by end of meeting.

13. Date of next meetings: May 10th, September 6th, November 15th and January 10th 2017.

14. Closing Prayer: Deacon Jonathan De Kretser closed the meeting with a prayer