

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

1. **Opening Prayer** – Fr Carlo.
2. **Present.** Fr Sidon Sagar, Fr Carlo Mazzotta, Desmond DeSa, Tiziana Demurtas, Chris Derby (Finance Representative), Philip Hazell, Shenda Holmes, Ruth Jones,
3. **Apologies.** Rachel Wells (School Representative), Lyndon Rodrigues
4. **Welcome.** Lavoisier Fernandes and Carole Jones were welcomed as new members of the Parish Council and introductions made.
5. **Approval of minutes of last meeting and matter arising.**

Church Car Park. **Action ongoing: The Finance Committee is in the process of finalising quotes for this work. The Parish Council to write to the Fordbridge Day Centre re the using of the car park.**

Fire Doors –Health and Safety requirement to replace a **number** of the internal doors on the ground floor in the Presbytery with Fire Doors. **Action ongoing: Still waiting for quotes.**

6. Updates.

Finance:

CD reported that parish is in healthy financial state, however, substantial works to the church roof will be due in the next few years.

The work of cleaning the Reredos and polishing the Tabernacle is now complete, the cost of this work covered by the legacy of a parishioner.

School:

No School update as Rachel Wells was not at the meeting.

Parish:

Parish Groups. Fr Sidon shared a document highlighting some of the groups of volunteers in the parish. SH had circulated the information to the group leaders in the past week asking for their input and to gauge how the Parish Council could offer support to these groups to help in the running of the parish. It highlighted some areas where there was room for improvement and more help needed. **Action: Fr Sidon updated the information and steps discussed to follow up Group Leaders (DDS); CJ agreed to join TD regarding Safeguarding; CD suggested creating a new Fundraising Group, in particular to run events when we are looking to raise funds for the parish.**

Christmas 2022. Good comments received about the SOL music group who played/sang at Midnight Mass.

Organist. No response to the request in the newsletter for an organist.

Cleaning of Church Statues. Agreed on Saturday 25th March after morning Mass. **Action: SH to advertise in newsletter, asking parishioners to join in and help.**

St Michael's News. The Parish Council would like to re-establish our parish quarterly magazine, perhaps working with the school for the children to write

articles. Perhaps it could move to a digital version, in an effort to keep costs down? **Action: to find an editor – SH to advertise in newsletter; LF to investigate options.**

Church Flowers. The church no longer receives donations for flowers, in particular at Christmas and Easter. It was suggested that we might have a flower donations box in the church.

Defibrillator. It had been suggested that the parish ought to have a Defibrillator on site. There is no legal requirement for a church to have one. Main concern, if we were to get one, was who would be responsible for it, for maintaining it.

Transport to church. FS expressed a concern that there are some parishioners who might be seeking transport to get to church. Can we set something up?

Fire Warden Training. 2 dates have been set within the Upper Thames Deanery – 25th and 26th April at St Francis de Sales Church, Hampton Hill. PC members and Mass Stewards are invited to attend. **Action: FS to circulate more details when available.**

Tea/Coffee after Tuesday morning Mass – now taking place. Parishioners invited to go through to the meeting room after 9.15am Mass. FS suggested we set up something similar on a Friday evening – Mass followed by fellowship in the parish hall.

Caritas – Animating Senior Parish Groups Conference to be held in April. PC members were invited to attend. More details to follow.

7. Easter 2023.

Mass and Service Times agreed as follows:

Palm Sunday, 2nd April	Procession with Palms at 9.15am Mass
Holy Thursday, 6th April	Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.00pm
Good Friday, 7th April	Stations of the Cross at 9.45am Sunday Friends, Children's Stations of the Cross ?TBC Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3.00pm Easter Polish Baskets at 11.00 / 12.00 (check with Fr Henryk)
Holy Saturday, 8th April	Easter Vigil at 7.30pm
Easter Sunday, 9th April	Masses at 9.15am, 11.30am and 6.00pm

Action: SH to check musicians for each Mass; confirm time for Easter Baskets; speak to Sunday Friends leaders re Children's Stations of the Cross; veiling of Statues w/c 3rd April.

8. Social Activities.

Children's Treasure Hunt – held in January, a successful event attended by 57 children.

Easter Drawing Activity for children – TD to advertise event, presentation of prizes to take place at 9.15am Mass on 23rd April 2023

Parish BBQ Fundraising Event – date set for Saturday 17th June 2023.

International Food Evening – date set for Saturday 16th September 2023.

9. Next meeting on Wednesday, 17th May 2023 at 7.00pm.