

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### 1. Opening Prayer.

2. **Present:** Fr Sidon Sagar, Fr Carlo Mazzotta, Tiziana Demurtas, Lavoisier Fernandes, Shenda Holmes, Carole Jones, Ruth Jones, Sanjay D'Souza.

3. **Apologies:** Chris Derby, Finance Committee Rep and Rachel Porter, School Rep.

4. **Catechetical Co-ordinator.** Welcome to Sanjay De Souza in his new role as Catechetical Co-ordinator for St Michael's and St David's parishes. Sanjay will be responsible for the running of the catechetical programmes in both parishes.

### 5. Updates.

**School:** Whole school mass - 27th September at school

From Y2-Y6 children are attending mass each Tuesday. Year 6 will join the 9.15 am mass on Tuesday 17th September.

Strong links with Echelforde Care Home will continue.

All of the children have completed work on their class saints.

Collective worship has started every Friday within the class.

We have Judaism workshops booked for the children in November.

**Finance:** The Finance Committee predicts that the parish will have a deficit of £20,000 by the end of the next financial year. One major contributing factor to this is the continuous rise in Utility Bills.

Looking at the Parish Pastoral Statistics Forms since 2021, parish numbers are steadily increasing, however, this is not reflected in the weekly offerings.

New families are moving into the parish, there has been a noted increase over the Summer.

Do we need to run a Planned Giving/Gift Aid drive? The Diocese is now discouraging the use of weekly envelopes in favour of Standing Order or contactless payment.

**Action: Include questions about weekly offerings in the planned Parish Census.**

### 6. Proposals in action made at last meeting:

**A 'thank-you event'** for our current helpers in recognition of their support of the parish.

Perhaps a time of Recollection, followed by a Q&A session on a Sunday afternoon, followed by refreshments. **Action: still to be organised.**

**Parish Census** – Fr Sidon shared a sample document of the Census Form to be implemented in the parish on the first weekend of October. Some alterations were required to the form and some discussion was held about the practicalities of rolling out the form to the parishioners. Do we go completely digital? What about parishioners who prefer a paper document? Within the Mass setting or advertise and ask parishioners to complete the form at home? **Action: Once the Census Form is finalised, then PPC members to meet and trial the completion of the Form.**

### 7. **Feast of St Michael, Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

9 Day Novena for the Feast of St Michael, commencing on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September was proposed by Lavoisier. There will be Mass on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

Fr Sidon proposed the following programme for the Feast of St Michael's:

9.15am Mass – Marta Fernandes has offered to organise tea and coffee in the parish hall after Mass. All Altar Servers will be enrolled in the Guild of St Stephen at this Mass.

11.30am Mass – advertised in the newsletter (15/09) as a 'Bring a dish' event after Mass. The Parish to provide drinks.

6.00pm Mass – no plans to date for this Mass.

**Action: to advertise in the newsletter.**

**8. Baptism and RCIA Catechist.** Lee Gibson is stepping down in her role as Baptism and RCIA Catechist. Fr Carlo will take on the role of the RCIA catechist, however we are looking for a new volunteer within the parish to take on the role of Baptism Catechist. *Thank you to Lee for her many years of dedicated service to the parish in these two roles.* **Action: To advertise role in newsletter.**

**9. AOB:**

**Sunday Friends.** Cheila Pontes has stepped down from the role of Group Leader of Sunday Friends. Anita Pisano has agreed to take on the role.

**Altar Servers.** All our Altar Servers are invited to the National Mass for Altar Servers at Westminster Cathedral on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2.30pm. **Action: Shenda to advise Daphne Carvalho.**

**Diocesan Mass Count.** To take place for 4 weekends commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Volunteers for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.** CJ offered to help with First Holy Communion. TD to write to last year's helpers and see if any are willing to help again this year. Need to carry out DBS checks on any new volunteers, so helpful if last year's helpers agree to help again. If not enough volunteers, then the classes cannot go ahead.

Three catechists for Confirmation and that works well. **Action: Sanjay to set up meeting with the Catechists.**

**Jubilee Year 2025.** Discussed ideas how to celebrate the Jubilee Year:

Say the Jubilee Year prayer daily at the end of Mass, as we have been doing for the Marian Year

12-hour adoration, from 10.00pm to 10.00am, ending with Mass. Put a sheet out in the narthex inviting parishioners to offer time? Possibly families to offer an hour? Youth Ministry Group? **Action: Shenda to email group leader.** Suggested to hold near to the Feast of Christ the King, possibly on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Forthcoming notable dates:**

Diocesan Mass Census – to do Mass count on 4 consecutive weekends, starting on 21/22 September. **Action: Shenda to ask members to cover all Masses.**

Feast of All Saints, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November

All Souls day, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Cemetery Visits, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November

Parish Christmas Music Evening, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December. **Action: TD to ask Franco to provide music.**

**10. Next meeting is on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 7.00pm.**