

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

### 1. Opening Prayer.

2. **Present:** Fr Sidon Sagar, Fr Carlo Mazzotta, Tiziana Demurtas, Lavoisier Fernandes, Shenda Holmes, Carole Jones, Ruth Jones, Sam Lyons (School Rep)

3. **Apologies:** Chris Derby, Finance Committee Rep

4. **New School Representative.** Welcome to Sam Lyons as the new School Representative, taking over from Rachel Porter who will shortly be going on Maternity Leave.

### 5. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

A 'thank-you event' for our current helpers in recognition of their support of the parish. **Action: still to be organised.**

*Parish Census.* **Action: The Census Form is finalised and has been tested. Need to decide when to implement it.**

*Feast of St Michael's.* The receptions after each Mass went well, apart from the Sunday 6.00pm which was poorly attended.

*Baptism/ RCIA Catechist.* No potential candidate yet to take over from Lee Gibson. Fr Carlo will run the next RCIA course.

*End of Jubilee Year Celebration.* 12 Hour Adoration on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. **Action: Lavoisier and Sanjay to meet to discuss**

### 6. Updates.

**School:** Whole staff retreat to Wintershall Estate to give all staff time away from school to consider how to nurture the spiritual development of our children.

Celebrated a lovely Mass with Father Carlo to celebrate the Feast of St Michael.

The school continues to attend mass at St Michael's on a Tuesday, with alternating year groups and the Alter Servers trained last year.

Class led liturgy for parents each Friday morning.

Travelling Rosary in October - We distributed a travelling rosary in each class so children could bring a set of Rosary Beads home with them one evening during October to pray a decade of the rosary, dedicated to Our Lady, with their family.

Governors and ACAT leaders' Mass.

MANNA foodbank collection.

Clothes collection for refugees.

Year 5 and 6 have written to their local MP about supporting Fairtrade's 'Be the change' pledge and raising the issue of the dignity of workers in Parliament.

Dr Margaret Carswell, Senior Lecturer in Theology and Religious Education, continues to support staff with staff continued professional development (CPD).

Diocese RE Advisor, Jo Brown, visited last half term to observe collective worship and is visiting this half term to observe RE lessons.

We are also due a Section 48 inspection and inspectors are likely to ask to speak to Father Sidon or Father Carlo about the Catholic Life of the School.

Coming up - Remembrance Day Collective Worship, Judaism workshops across the whole school, visits to Echelforde Care Home.

7. **Finance:** The main areas of concern with the parish finances are the Utility Bills and the possible need to replace the church boilers (quotes of £78,000 +VAT per boiler), following the annual

Diocesan Health and Safety check that took place on 5<sup>th</sup> November. It is recommended to purchase through diocesan recommend suppliers who seem to tend to have higher prices.

**Parish:**

*First Holy Communion applications* are now closed. 58 applications have been received. Berne Shanker will run the children's sessions with help from Carole Jones with the admin. Once application forms have been processed, it is hoped to find some parents to help volunteer during the sessions, in order to meet the required number criteria. **Action: Sanjay to meet with Carole Jones and, possibly, Tania Carvalho.**

*Confirmation applications* close on 17<sup>th</sup> November. The catechists are hoping to run a Retreat Day as part of the programme.

**8. Peoples' behaviour at Mass.** There are three areas of concern here:

**Noise.** The Church is getting very noisy during Mass – children eating, playing with noisy toys, etc. This can be quite disturbing for other people during Mass. When the narthex was built, the idea was to take unsettled children out to the narthex, where the Mass can still be followed on the screen, and then come back into church once they have settled down.

**People chatting in church before Mass.** We are supposed to sit in silence in the presence of the Lord before Mass. The SOL group (11.30am Mass) do practice before Mass, but stop 15-20 minutes before Mass to maintain the silence.

**State of Church after Mass.** So many items are found left in the pews after Mass – hymns books, Mass books, newsletters, food, tissues. We would like to expect that books are returned to the trolleys as people leave the church and take any rubbish away with them (there is a bin in the narthex).

**Action: To include a note in the weekly newsletter and possibly priest to make an announcement at Mass.**

**Parish Hall Upgrade.** The hall is a good source of income for the parish, when not needed for parish activities. It is booked out quite extensively with regular bookings during the week, as well as one-off functions. However, it is now in quite a bad state of décor and needs to be re-decorated/upgraded, including the windows. Also the tables need replacing as a number of them are broken and unsafe to use.

When we use our parish hall, we need to respect it and take care of it, particularly when moving the tables and chairs around – not dragging them across the floor and damaging the floor as a result.

This same applies also to any hall hirers. We have recently increased the deposit for a hall booking to £150 which is only returned if the hall is left in a clean state and no damage been done. The ideal situation would be to have one person responsible to meet/greet each person booking the hall and then again at the end of the booking to ensure all is in order.

Regular hall hirers have recently been asked to tidy up the items that they store in the hall.

**9. Christmas 2024.** We will have the same Christmas Mass times as last year:

**Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December** - 6.00pm and 11.00pm (with Carols at 10.30pm)

**Christmas Day, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December** - 9.15am and 11.30am (no evening Mass)

**New Year's Eve, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December** – 9.15am

New Year's Day, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January – 10.00am

**Action: Shenda to write to Music Groups to request which Mass to play at.**

## **10. Social Events.**

*Bingo and Biryani Night, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November.*

*Christmas Family Music Evening, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December.* Sell tickets after weekend Masses (£8.00 adults, £5.00 children). Tiziana to check with Franco for music.

*Nativity Set activity for children.* Make the set and send in a photograph of it displayed at home, rather than bring to church as we did last year.

*Children's Treasure Hunt.* Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Tiziana to organise.

## **11. Next meeting is on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 7.00pm.**