

Parish Council Meeting Minutes
Monday 12th June 2023

1. Present:	Catherine Wloch (Chair), Fr. Sean Carroll, Fr. Jose Netto, Robert Nunn (CAFOD), Eileen Bonnar (Eucharistic Ministers and Readers), Richard Wloch (Folk Group), Ron Burchell (Parishioners Rep), Zoe Elliott (Altar Servers), Yvonne Hillier (Safeguarding) Jenny Mascarenhas (Mothers prayer group), Daniella Bourke (Senior and Children's Choir), Siobhan Denny (Youth), Noreen Flynn (Minutes),
2. Apologies received from:	Colin Frost (Finance and SVP), Elizabeth Cox (Alter Servers)
3. Welcome and prayer. Fr. Sean opened the meeting with a prayer.	
4. The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed off.	
5. Update on Parish plans and issues	
Safeguarding The applications in respect of the Redcaps are being processed and the diocese has been aware of the urgency to have them completed. Where one-off events take place within the various youth groups a safeguarding officer will not be required. All of the usual risk assessments must be carried out (first aid, allergies etc.) Action: Yvonne will check if different rules apply if events take place on a regular basis.	
Altar Servers A notice will be but in the Newsletter requesting volunteers for the confirmation mass on 8 th July. A number of ideas are being discussed to try to increase the numbers of Servers. This includes a "Bring a friend" campaign. Three people have expressed an interest to start training in September. Action: Zoe and Siobhan will visit the school. There is £624 in the kitty which will be used for the Summer Social. Zoe queried whether the parish website could include a space for parents to interact with each other to assist in the provision of cover should a server not be able to attend the mass for which they are rostered. The infrastructure currently provided by Westminster can't support an interactive website. Action: Fr. Sean will speak to an IT person about alternatives.	
Finance committee The Finance Committee will meet next month and report to the next meeting. Colin has agreed to organise the Christmas Fayre along with Susan Jeffery. A decision needs to be made regarding the allocation of any surplus funds from the fayre. Action: Catherine will email Anne to confirm if Saturday 2 nd December 2023 is an acceptable date for the Fayre.	
SVP The donations to the Food Bank is ongoing and the parish response is fantastic. However, there is a shortage of toiletries such as shampoo, shower gel, washing powder, toothpaste and similar items. Action: Catherine will put a notice in the Newsletter to appeal for these items.	

Youth

The fund Raising for the Lourdes Trip is now almost complete.

The DBS checks for the Redcaps is expected to be completed in good time before the trip begins.

All of the youth groups will take a break from the end of July.

Summer Camp will take place for one week during August.

Plans are being drawn up to introduce six-week courses on various topics in September.

CAFOD

Robert attended a parliamentary reception on 22nd May 2023 in the House of Commons. It was attended by about 100 volunteers from around the country as well as 12 MPs from the Labour and Conservative Parties. The speakers spoke about the good work that is being done by CAFOD in the community in Kenya. Robert also met Tom Burke who represents the Bishops in parliament and also lobbies the MPs for the church and CAFOD.

Robert also attended a justice and peace meeting at Vaughan House on 5th June 2023. The meeting was chaired by Fr. Dominic Robinson and five topics were discussed:

The Homeless, Poverty and The cost of living crisis.

Racial Justice.

Care of Creation.

Migrants and Refugees.

Peace.

The aim of the meeting was to produce an outcome for each of these areas and to provide feedback to Bishop Nicholas.

It was agreed the Fix the Food System Campaign Notice would be placed at the back of the church for parishioners to sign in support of the campaign.

Children and Adult Choir.

Danielle is awaiting an update with regard to the music requirements for the confirmation.

Action: Danielle will liaise with Richard to agree the music for this.

Folk Group:

The Folk Group now sings at the 10am Mass on 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

Richard asked if people could check the booking system put in place for the use of the church and our other premises for rehearsal purposes in order to avoid clashes with other groups.

Eucharistic Ministers.

The Recommissioning of the Ministers took place on the feast of Corpus Christi and was well attended.

Mother's Prayer Group.

Jenny attended a Night of Light Event in Holyrood in Watford which was organised by the youth but open to all who wished to attend. There were Readings and Hymns and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. A similar event could possibly be organised in our parish at a future date.

Ron Burchell and Fr. Jose didn't have anything to report for this meeting.

6. Fr. Sean

Fr. Sean thought all of the Communion Services went very well, and he extended his thanks to all involved in the organisation.

It is hoped that music will be introduced at all of the weekend masses from September, or at least Hymns will be sung.

Fr. Sean has been asked to have a Seminarian in the parish from September.

There are six applicants for the post of Catechetical Coordinator. The interviews will take place shortly. The interview panel will consist of Fr. Sean, Anne O'Connor, Jo Marsh and Diocesan Representative.

From September it is hoped to make the Masses more interactive for the younger people. This must be achieved without compromising the integrity of the Mass.

All of the quotations for the screens have not yet been received.

Fr. Sean would like if there was more interaction between the Primary School and the Parish. This could possibly be achieved by having a representative from the school/parents teachers association on the Parish Council.

Action: Fr. Sean will speak to the School Principal.

7. AOB.

Spiritual Development in the Parish will be discussed after the Catechetical Coordinator has been appointed.

A date for the Carol Concert will be decided at the next meeting.

Jenny extended her thanks to Siobhan for organising the Car Wash. It was a worthwhile exercise both for the car owners and fundraising!

Zoe would like to have a discussion around developing support for people in interfaith relationships.

Richard asked if we could help people to progress in their faith – perhaps by keeping in touch with parents of children baptised and newly married couples.

The situation with regard to the Outside Sensors not working properly is ongoing and will be addressed fully after the Health and Safety Audit on 26th June.

8. The next meeting will be 10th July 2023. This will be a planning meeting.

Future meetings:

Sept 11th

Nov 13th

Oct 9th - joint meeting with Finance Committee

Dec 11th

9. The meeting closed with a prayer.