

Parish Council Meeting Minutes
Monday 11th December 2023

1. Present:	Catherine Wloch (Chair), Fr. Sean Carroll, Fr. Jose Netto, Eileen Bonnar (Eucharistic Ministers and Readers), Angela Alvares (Folk Group), Ron Burchell (Parishioners Rep), Daniela Bourke (Senior and Children's Choir), Siobhan Denny (Youth), Robert Nunn (CAFOD), Nichola McGeady (Guides and Brownies), James Boyle (Seminararian), Colin Frost (Finance and SVP), Richard Wloch (Guest) and Noreen Flynn (Minutes).
2. Apologies received from:	Jenny Mascarenhas (Mothers Prayer Group), Gary Plumb (Scouts and Cubs), Harriet Plumb (Jubilee Trust).
3. Welcome and prayer. Fr. Jose opened the meeting with a prayer.	
4. The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed off.	
5. Previous Actions: Fr. Sean- The Altar Servers portal is still being progressed. Fr. Sean - Discussions still ongoing re School and PTA Representatives.	
6. Matters Arising: The discussions around ORCHYD using the facilities in the Hesdin Hall are ongoing. ACTION Colin will liaise with ORCHYD regarding their possible use of Hesdin Hall.	
7. Christmas The Christmas Fayre went well although the numbers attending were lower than previous years. The school took an active part by having a stall and displaying posters in the school and this proved to be successful. Fr. Sean thought that there was a very nice atmosphere in the hall on the day. The net proceeds made was £3,600 and this will be divided between the purchase of a New Piano and the S. Ruislip Food Bank (via SVP). Many thanks to Colin and the team for their hard work organising the Fayre. The Advent Service was well attended, and the choirs did well. Fr. Sean thought the service was very prayerful. Many thanks to Daniela for all her hard work in organising everybody. She suggested the preparation for the Service should be started much earlier next year. Fr. Sean blessed the advent wreaths on the First Sunday of Advent but he wasn't too sure how many people brought wreaths to the Mass. This will be given more prominence next year. The Penitential Service takes place on 18 th December 2023. There will be six priests in attendance. The Mass times for Christmas have been put in the Newsletter.	
8. Updates from the groups	
Finance committee The next Finance Committee Meeting is Scheduled for February.	
SVP The donations from the Parish for the Food Bank have dropped considerably but are still badly needed. Approximately 80 families attend the Food Bank each week. People attending must have vouchers to receive the goods.	

Youth

The Youth Dramas for Advent are now taking place and the Youth Centre continues to be open on Sunday Mornings and is quite busy. Some parents have stayed for the sessions and have expressed an interest in becoming volunteers.

Seven people so far have committed to going to Lourdes next summer and recruitment is still ongoing. Deposits need to be paid shortly.

The young person who applied for a place in the Diocese Upper Room Programme has been successful and the programme will commence early next year.

The older youth group handed out parcels to the homeless (19 in total). The youth group has plans to get involved with Help the Homeless in Hillingdon.

A guest from Eastcote attended one of the meetings to get some information in order to set up a similar group in Eastcote.

Siobhan hosted a retreat day for the Northwood Confirmation Group, which was well received.

Siobhan made a request for some consideration to be given to purchasing a minibus for use by the Youth group. **ACTION** Siobhan was asked to investigate all the costs involved in the purchase of a minibus and report to the next meeting.

Children and Adult Choir.

The Childrens Choir will sing at the 10am Mass on Sunday 17th December 2023. They will also sing at the 6.30 pm Mass on Christmas Eve and the Adult Choir will sing at the 9.30 pm Mass.

Folk Group:

Quotations for the purchase of a New Piano have been received and a decision will be made shortly. Daniela requested that one with Recording and Playback functions should be purchased as this would be a good facility for the Choirs in the future. **ACTION** Daniella agreed to assist Angela in sorting out the purchase of the piano.

Richard presented a sum of £150 towards the cost of the piano – this being monies received by the folk group for singing at a funeral. Fr. Sean said that the piano should be purchased now, and any shortfall of funds can be made up by the Parish.

The Folk Group are rehearsing for the 10 am Mass on Christmas Day.

Catechetics

The programme is now taking a break for the Christmas period.

Eucharistic Ministers/Readers

There are seven new readers but still very short on cover for both of the evening masses.

RCIA.

The programme is now running, and the Rite of Acceptance took place on Sunday last. The group consists of ten people. The Rite of Enrolment is scheduled for 17th February 2024, and this will be for the whole of the diocese.

Parish Representative.

Ron said the Friday Coffee mornings are quite busy. There were visits from some of the Classes from Douay Martyrs School and these were very enjoyable.

Guides and Brownies:

All of the groups are well attended and there are many activities taking place.

Discussions are taking place with the Scouts regarding Church Parades.

CAFOD:

Robert attended the Westminster Justice and Peace on 11th October 2023 at Vaughan House where the Synod Process was discussed.

Robert has signed the CAFOD Online Petition urging the Prime Minister not to backtrack on Climate Action. So far 4911 people have signed it.

Thanks to Fr. Sean for allowing envelopes to be used in the church CAFOD's Appeal for funds for GAZA.

Fr. Sean

Fr. Sean is still following up on the Volunteers and is hopeful that a Volunteer Coordinator can be engaged to help out.

The relining of the carpark is ongoing, and it is hoped to have this, and the barrier repair completed soon.

Boiler repairs are due to be carried out on Friday 15th December 2023. All of the radiators will be serviced at the same time.

An investigation as to whether there is RACK in the hall has to be undertaken. Fr. Sean has rejected the Surveyors commissioned by the Diocese as they are far too expensive. Until this test has been completed, however the installation of Solar Panels cannot be done. Other necessary repairs are taking place around the church.

Fr Sean sent an Email to Ruislip Appliances regarding the parking of their vans. They said that while there is no agreement in place, they did agree with Fr. Duncan to provide any necessary appliances free of charge in lieu of payment! Further investigations will take place at a later date!

Caritas has sent £400 of supermarket vouchers to the parish. These will be donated to the SVP and other worthy causes.

Viners School will be attending the church next Wednesday for their Carol Concert.

9. AOB.

The Chairperson thanked Noreen for her contribution as Minute taker and presented her with a plant. There was a get together after the meeting with drinks and nibbles.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be 8th January 2024 when Easter will be discussed.

The meeting closed with a prayer from James.

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