

**Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday 13th May 2024**

<b>1. Present:</b>	Catherine Wloch (Chair), Fr. Sean Carroll, Fr. Jose Netto Colin Frost (Finance and SVP), Zoe Elliott (Altar Servers), Eileen Bonnar (Eucharistic Ministers and Readers), Holly Cook (Volunteer Co-Ordinator), Angela Alvarez (Folk Group), Nichola McGeady (Brownies and Guides), Robert Nunn (CAFOD/Justice and Peace), Harriet Plumb (Jubilee Trust), James Boyle (Seminararian), Yvonne Hillier (Safeguarding), Daniela Bourke (Catechetical Co-ordinator/Senior & Children's Choir), Ron Burchell (Parish Rep)
<b>2. Apologies received from:</b>	Jenny Mascarenhas (Mothers Prayer Group). Nichola McGeady (Brownies and Guides), Noreen Flynn (Minutes)
<b>3. Welcome and prayer:</b> Fr. Sean opened the meeting with a prayer.	
<b>4. The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed off.</b>	
<b>5. Matters Arising:</b> Holly exploring options in working with the Elm Park Dining Group.	
<b>6. Volunteer Party &amp; Future events:</b> There was generally positive feedback from the Volunteer Party. Improvements for next year's party included: counting how many were in attendance, deciding whether children may attend in advance, streamlining the RSVPs to avoid missing people, setting a structure for the evening and potentially beginning the evening with Mass or some prayer. Asides from the Volunteer Party, there was discussion about an event for the Feast Day of the Sacred Heart (9 <sup>th</sup> June) and it was decided that the parish would lead a Novena – probably 2025. Daniela mentioned that Vivienne Sheard will want to begin planning the possible children's Advent session (proposed date 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Advent) in June.	
<b>7. Updates from the groups</b>	
<b>Finance committee:</b> Recent Finance meeting confirmed that there is money in the budget for proposed projects from the Parish groups.	
<b>SVP:</b> The Food Bank continues to be busy. Mass for the Sick & Housebound was well attended. 'ORCHYD' charity are coming to view the parish hall on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> May at 7.30pm as a possible future base for their annual holiday for children with disabilities.	
<b>Volunteering:</b> Retreat dates for Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Youth Leaders have been set in both June and October. A Repository Rota is currently being put together with a call out for further volunteers.	
<b>Jubilee Trust:</b> The Family Bingo Night will be planned for July 2024. A Parish Cultural Event is being planned for September. The Social Club and the First Friday Lunches are doing well.	
<b>Eucharistic Ministers/Readers:</b> Nothing to Report.	
<b>RCIA:</b> There are now two meetings left, one with Holly to call for volunteers and a social meal TBC. 1 potential enquiry for next year.	

**CAFOD:** Robert attended a training day on using our Catholic voice in the elections on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. CAFOD is asking parishes to hold collections for the Sudan emergency appeal. Robert has emailed the local MP petitioning for an end to arms sales to Israel.

**Altar Servers:** 3 new Servers have been trained. A summer social is TBC.

**Folk Group:** The group are currently prepping Music for the First Holy Communion Masses and will potentially play at the Confirmation Mass also.

**Parish Rep:** There has been good feedback for the new carpark layout.

**Safeguarding:** An audit of the DBS's in the parish has been requested as Reps can no longer access them themselves. The DBS for the Lourdes trip are in progress.

**Catechetics:** First Holy Communion Masses begin on the 19<sup>th</sup> May. The date for Confirmations is set for the 13<sup>th</sup> July, Mass to be said by Episcopal Vicar Gerard Quinn. Next year, all forms and rota's for both Sacraments will hopefully be put on the website instead of paper versions.

**Fr. Jose:** Nothing to report.

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**Fr. Sean:**

There has been a new Bishop, Fr Jim Curry appointed who may cover the Ruislip area.

A legacy has been left to the parish and it has been decided that donations will be split between serving those in poorer parishes and the Sick and Retired Priests fund, with the balance going to parish funds.

A deadline of January has been set to discuss the future of the Volunteer Party.

The Church's Centenary (2027) will have a subcommittee created in the near future. There will also be a celebration of the St Stephen's Guild (95 years).

Screens in the church will be in by September and there are hopes for the 10am Sunday Mass to become more family oriented.

A recent Tablet article on 'What do green shoots mean?' suggested that in 1979 there were 2 million attending Church and in 2021 figures were down to 503,000. How do we increase the impact of our ministry and outreach was the questions posed to the Council?

There will be an excerpt in the Parish newsletter and parishioners will be encouraged to share their feedback on Catholic Education and its value.

**8. AOB:**

It was mentioned that there was good feedback for Communion under both kinds at Easter. Fr Sean has hopes to reinstate this, once we build a larger team of Eucharistic Ministers. Daniela mentioned that both kinds will be available at the First Holy Communion Masses.

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**9. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

The meeting closed with a prayer from James.

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**Future dates**

1. Jun 10 – joint meeting with Finance Committee.
2. Jul 8