

Parish Council Meeting Minutes
Monday 10th June 2024

1. Present:	Catherine Wloch (Chair), Fr. Sean Carroll, Fr. Jose Netto, Siobhan Denny (Youth), Colin Frost (Finance and SVP), Nichola McGeady (Brownies and Guides), Robert Nunn (CAFOD/Justice and Peace), Daniela Bourke (Catechetical Co-ordinator/Senior & Children’s Choir), James Boyle (Seminarian) Gary Plumb (Scouts and Cubs), Noreen Flynn (Minutes). Also Present: Finance Committee Members: Michael Clarke, Patrick Egan, Gino Amasanti and David Paquet.
2. Apologies received from:	Yvonne Hillier (Safeguarding), Zoe Elliot (Alter Servers), Ron Burchell (Parish Rep) Eileen Bonnar (Eucharistic Ministers and Readers).
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. Matters Arising: Ron Burchell has resigned as Parish Representative. He was thanked by the Chairperson for his contribution and help over a long number of years. A card and gift were arranged.	
6. ORCHYD: Representatives have viewed the Hesdin Hall and were positive in their comments. The proposal to use it for their annual holiday will be discussed at their next committee meeting and they will let us know the outcome in due course.	
7. Updates from the groups	
<p>Finance committee: As this was a joint meeting with the Finance Team there was no specific update, but any information has been incorporated into Fr. Sean’s report.</p> <p>SVP: The Food Bank continues to be very active and good support comes from the local supermarkets. There is particular ongoing need for donations of toiletries. The visits to those in need in the parish continues and forms a very important part of Parish Life.</p> <p>Jubilee Trust: The planned theatre trip takes place on 13TH June 2024. A Bingo Night is planned in Sept.</p> <p>Catechetics and Choirs: The First Communions are now all complete. Confirmation takes place in July. The Senior Choir is lacking in numbers. Daniela will try to get some more singers to join. The junior choir continues to grow and is doing very well.</p> <p>RCIA: The programme has now finished for this year. Those involved plan an outing for a meal to celebrate. It is hoped that some of the new Catholics will take on a volunteering role in the parish.</p> <p>Guides and Brownies: 4th Brownies group is currently on hold as the Leader is unable to attend meetings.</p> <p>CAFOD: Robert attended the year of encounter using our Catholic voice in the General Election meeting on 25th April 2024 - also attended by over 200 representatives from CAFOD and SVP around the country. Robert plans to attend the West London Justice and Peace Network meeting on 15th June 2024 and the Justice and Peace Contacts meeting on 2nd July 2024. There is a Harvest Family Fast day planned for 4th October 2024 with a collection on the weekend of 5/6th October 2024.</p> <p>Scouts and Cubs and Beavers: The groups are busy with various activities taking place. Plans are under way to have a joint group camp with the Guides and Brownies in September.</p>	

The last Church Parade was not as well attended as hoped for various reasons. It is proposed to have one Parade per term going forward with the next one planned for 6th October 2024.

Safeguarding: All of the DBS checks for Lourdes have been processed apart from one.

8: Projects for the Future: Discussions took place with the Finance Committee and consideration will be given to the following:

- Revival of the children's Advent Workshop. Daniela will liaise with Vivienne Sheard.
- A programme to invite various speakers which could be centred around a Social Evening.
- The various groups to be encouraged to contribute to the parish website.
- A Parish Pilgrimage to be organised either at home or abroad. Daniela agreed to give it some thought.
- For the 2027 Centenary Celebrations Colin proposed a trip to The Abbey of Bec in Normandy.

9: Fr. Sean:

The Finance Committee and the Parish Council must continue to work together for the good of the Parish and there should be a joint meeting annually.

The Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 were presented. Various donations were received during the year. It is anticipated that expenditure will be higher in 2024 and this includes bigger Non-Clergy Salary Costs.

There are a number of Audits due to take place including Finance, Health, and Safety and GDPR.

An Asbestos Survey is also due to be carried out.

There has been an overall drop in the numbers attending regular Mass and number of Baptisms and this is a cause for concern. In addition, admissions to the Sacred Heart School are not now fully Catholic.

Discussions are ongoing on how to make the best use of the facilities available within the Parish.

Plans to celebrate the Centenary of the Church in 2027 are centered around fundraising and activities.

An Alpha course will take place in January 2025, and this will aim to engage with people who are estranged from the church and their faith.

Fr. Sean would like to have more contact with the other Christian Churches and is working on this.

It is expected to have the new website in place by July.

The 10 o'clock Mass on Sunday mornings is being developed to be more inclusive for the younger people. Holly is working to have this in place by September.

10. AOB: Congratulations and good wishes were extended to James on his new appointment.

The first planning Meeting for the Christmas Fair will take place shortly. Colin asked that decision regarding the distribution of the funds would be discussed at the next meeting.

The area around the Scout Hut needs to be cleaned up and maintained on a more permanent basis. It could then be used by the Guides and the Scouts for some of their activities.

The Photographs of the church from Eileen Bowl's book are being scanned and stored for the future.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be 8th July 2024.

The meeting closed with a prayer from James.

Future dates

1. July 8th

2. August – No meeting

3. September 9th