

DRAFT MINUTES - ST CATHERINE'S PPC, 18/5/24

In attendance: Father Boniface, Mike Webber, Brian Haran, Anita Tackley, Anne Haynes, Shola Akinmurele, Natasha Stanley, Adriana Jamesova, Teresa Burbidge, Wioletta Bartkow, Lachlan Mackay, Sue Pegrum and Steve Pope (Finance Committee, H and S)

Opening prayer and welcome (including to new member Natasha Stanley and to Steve Pope, who was providing health and safety guidance)

Apologies for absence: Deacon Adrian, Peter Ripley, Adrienne Blondell, Josephine Buwembo and Gill Hawkins

Minutes of March 2 meeting: Agreed and signed

Matter arising: Natasha said her husband Matt had agreed to lead Stations of the Cross next Lent. Father B proposed holding Stations of the Cross on Wednesday evenings 6-7pm in Lent, with the option in principle of stations of the cross being also held at other times if the demand was there.

Sanctuary upgrading: £3,235 has been raised so far towards the total of £9,000 plus VAT. Father B, who said he wants to kick-start the appeal anew in June, stressed the appeal was for a carpet for St Catherine's and was not his carpet.

Diocesan Pastoral Plan: Father Terry Martin (currently on a year's sabbatical) will be the moderator of the new deanery.

Father B added: "People should not be afraid of the changes ahead. Your priest will remain in your area."

Holy Week Services: The Palm Sunday procession was led by the choir, but the congregation was left to walk in silence, said Mike Webber. A "simple ditty" during the procession, announced beforehand to the congregation, would ensure much greater participation. Father B said he would pass these suggestions on to the choir so they can take them on board.

New Year's Celebrations: A New Year's Day celebration/ mass was proposed, which would be a Mass for Our Lady, possibly switching in alternate years between St Catherine's and St Joseph's, Rustington.

St Peter and St Paul Sunday Celebration (June 30): A barbecue had been proposed after the 11am mass. Steve Pope from St Catherine's finance committee, with years of health and safety expertise, pointed out several potential pitfalls - would those cooking the food have food hygiene qualifications, how would the food be stored and also tested during cooking, would an experienced fire marshal be on hand?

After some debate, it was agreed to defer the proposed barbecue until next year so more research could be undertaken.

Instead, parishioners will be encouraged to bring along food for a buffet in the hall, while donations for a raffle can be dropped in to a basket in the church porch.

St Catherine's Saturday Celebration (November 23): Sue Pegrum's suggestion - that a short history of St Catherine's could be printed in a glossy booklet which could be sold on the day - was enthusiastically received by council members.

Other parish events: Pentecost Sunday next year (8 June) will also be the centenary of the death of Canon Neave, St Catherine's longest-serving priest who spent 49 years here and left the church and priest's house much as it is today.

And in that same month (28 June), as it merges with other parishes in our Deanery, our parish will have existed for 105 years.

Mike Webber suggested some celebration could be held on one of these days.

Meanwhile, a Cake Sale is pencilled in for Sunday September 15 after Mass. Liaison with the SVP was suggested.

REPORTS FROM GROUPS

Formation/Catechism: 4 candidates were recently confirmed at Arundel Cathedral.

Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers: 2 new ministers were inducted on May 12.

Anne Haynes said a member of the Keralan community had joined the ranks of eucharistic ministers which should be celebrated.

Welcoming: More Saturday welcomers are needed.

The offertory procession, where members of the congregation bring forward the bread and wine, was going well.

Mike Webber said any second collections after mass should receive one week's notice so members of the congregation can be prepared for them.

Reading: 2 more readers have come forward for Saturday evening masses.

Mike Webber pointed out that the New Translation of Readings and Psalms, which comes in later this year, could be at considerable expense for the parish to replace books. However, he noted that discounts were available for orders placed by 30 June.

Fr B said that parish funds would be used to order the books for the sanctuary as well as a set of Sunday Mass Books covering Year C. This would be done by 30 June.

Choir: Choir organist Terry Warren wrote to the meeting, querying whether the church needs a printed music copyright licence.

He explained: "The Bishop said that individual parishes were responsible for checking their needs under copyright legislation. He also stressed that the diocese would not pay the bill for any costs incurred through non-compliance with the law."

Father B responded at the meeting that all hymns sung should be from the hymn book as we do not have the funds to pay for copyright licences.

But he invited Terry Warren to look into costings further.

Sacristy: The council agreed that the figure of Christ crucified, which had been stored in the sacristy recently and is believed to be from the former Holy Family Convent in Norfolk Road which closed in 1988, could be sent to a parish in Nigeria.

Father B said parishioners there would not only be hugely grateful but would put up a plaque with thanks to St Catherine's

Other items to be sent out to Nigeria, including chalices, have been donated by the religious Sisters who recently moved to a Home in Climping.

Littlehampton Churches Together (LCT): A new vicar has been appointed from September to All Saints, Wick and St Mary Magdalene's, Lyminster.

The Good Friday Walk of Witness: this year saw a good turnout from St Catherine's. Natasha Stanley agreed to take photos of next year's event on behalf of LCT.

Brian Haran agreed to provide representation on the LCT stall at this year's Littlehampton Town Show on September 14.

Summer Camp (for 80 Yr 6 pupils) in August BH week: 9 spaces left for Vulnerable Children (Have we any?). In past years, St Catherine's, along with other churches, have each sponsored one or two of these children. The current cost is £84 per child. Can we do the same this year? (*Note: the annual contribution asked of Churches for LCT Projects will not be requested this year, due to a generous donation*)

Justice and Peace Actions: A good response has been received for the recent request for clothing for Gatwick Detainees.

The SVP and CAFOD are encouraging Catholics to ask questions of parliamentary candidates on various ethical matters.

The Deanery J&P Group wish to hold their next meeting on 4th July at St Catherine's. *(This is now not possible, as the Centre will be a Polling Station on 4th July)*

Any other (urgent) business: Father B said the leak in the bar room of the church hall, had been fixed. Thanks were given to Wioletta Bartkow for taking on the task of collecting the Mission red boxes.

Date and time of next meeting: Saturday September 21, 11am, in the Don Bosco Room