

# MINUTES OF ST CATHERINE'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

– MARCH 2, 2024

**Present:** Father Boniface, Mike Webber (chairman), Brian Haran (clerk), Gill Hawkins, Wioletta Bartkow, Anne Haynes, Anita Tackley, Adriana Jamesova, Adrienne Blondell, Peter Ripley, Shola Akinmurele, Lachlan MacKay, Josephine Buwembo and Teresa Burbidge.

**Apologies for absence:** Deacon Adrian and Sue Pegrum

**Minutes of 9/12/23 meeting:** were agreed, after one minor amendment.

**Quinquennial report (into the state of the parish's buildings):** Peter Ripley (who chairs the Parish Finance Committee) pointed out that the Survey had been conducted in May 2022 and all the urgent work specified in the subsequent Report had now been completed - with other work still being scheduled. The buildings are ageing and need much attention, probably costing in excess of £160,000. A request for financial support will be sought from the diocese, based on specific estimates. He added that the parish is well served by the members of its maintenance team.

**Upgrading of the sanctuary:** Father B said the new carpet would cost around £9,000 plus VAT. The currently vinyl flooring is lumpy and easily gets dirty, he said. Experts will check on the state of the flooring before proceeding.

**Diocesan Pastoral Plan:** Mike Webber reminded us that in around 10-12 months' time, the Worthing deanery will become a parish – and priests within our deanery will likely move around more than in the past. Adrienne Blondell suggested some lay people should join members of the clergy on future pre-planning meetings in the deanery. Father Boniface offered a note of reassurance, saying that Bishop Richard did not seem keen on closing churches.

## **Events:**

**Holy Week:** People are encouraged to bring their own branches to Palm Sunday masses this year. Adrienne and Shola will liaise over the lighting of the fire at the Easter Vigil. The purpose and content of the Sacred Triduum Services would be publicised and explained in the Newsletter and on the altar in advance, to promote greater attendance at these Services.

Father Boniface proposed having a mass at St Catherine's on **Easter Monday** – "Galilee Day" – with a family barbecue afterwards to help celebrate the Resurrection.

For our planned **St Peter and St Paul celebrations on Sunday June 30**, people will be encouraged to bring along barbecue equipment for the post-mass celebrations, with part of the car park cordoned off to enable safe access.

Re the **St Catherine's Day Mass**, flags of different nationalities will be displayed, along with prayers in different languages. The Hall would not be available for preparation until 9pm the day before.

The next **cake sale** would be held in September.

Further ahead, Adrienne Blondell suggested that the **Christmas Eve Vigil Mass** should be held later in the evening, maybe between 8 and 10pm. Father B said he would consider the proposal.

Father B also said a mass should be said on **January 1, to celebrate Our Blessed Mother**.

## **Reports:**

**Formation/catechism:** A confirmation service will be held on Sunday May 12 at 3pm in Arundel Cathedral. First Holy Communion services will take place at St Catherine's on Saturdays June 15 and also 22, both at 11am.

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Training sessions were being held, and it was hoped to have a commissioning ceremony at Mass on Sunday March 17.

**Welcoming:** More Welcomers are needed. It was pointed out that they have a duty to find two people for the Offertory Procession, but not to arrange for Collectors.

**Reading:** A microphone extension has been installed, offering greater clarity for readings. 2 new readers have come forward for the Saturday vigil mass, while a pool of 15 readers is currently available for the Sunday mass. No-one is currently available to read the announcements at the vigil mass.

**Cleaning:** Hopefully 4 new recruits have come forward to boost the fortnightly cleaning team.

**Sacristy:** A group of Servite Sisters, who had been living in Bognor, had recently moved to Climbing. They have given Father some vestments. He gives them Holy Communion each Wednesday, and also plans to say a monthly mass for them.

**Littlehampton Churches Together:** A Walk of Witness will be held from 11am on **Good Friday**, starting at St Mary's Church in Church Street, and ending in the garden of the United Church in the town centre with a short service.

A Joint Service was planned for Pentecost (Sun 19 May) at 2.00pm in our car park, with tea afterwards in the Centre. [ LCT later – on 13 March - cancelled this Service]

St Catherine's is one of three churches in Littlehampton who will be visited by 40 Yr 7 students from the Littlehampton Academy on Tuesday 12 March to help them with their understanding of "Christian Places of Worship". [ Also cancelled on the day due to rain. Visit will now take place after Easter]

**Justice & Peace Actions:** The Deanery Group has planned for Big Easter Walk to raise money for CAFOD on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Any distance along the sea front between Littlehampton to Shoreham. It will need publicising and organising in each parish. Is anyone interested in taking this on? (Mike has the details of what is needed)

**SVP:** A detailed report of its activities was read out. In summary: the 9-strong group meets monthly in the Don Bosco Room. Members visit/call on people in care homes/their own homes; a benefactor's gift of money was distributed via schools; SVP give money to "twinned" parishes in Africa and India, and hold monthly afternoon teas in the hall, as well as regularly serving coffee after Sunday mass.

**Next Meeting: 11.00am on Saturday 18 May in the Parish Centre**