

**Our Lady and St Charles Borromeo Church**

**Parish-In-Council meeting 15 March 2019**

**ACTION**

Fr James welcomed 14 parishioners to the meeting thanking everyone for their attendance.

Apologies had been received from Irene and Michael Albone, Barbara and Anton Woods, Judith Lawrence, and Maureen Harty.

The meeting commenced with a prayer from Fr James.

19/01 **Review of the Past Six Months**

- So far there had been three funerals and one wedding.
- 11 children have enrolled in preparation for First Holy Communion. Thanks go to Veronica, Barbara and Isabella for their work. Six older children are also preparing for First Holy Communion and will follow that with joining classes for Confirmation in September. Mothering Sunday Mass will be led by the young of the parish.
- Fr James put on record his thanks to the team of catechists who provide the preparation sessions, these are Roisin O'Shea, Helen Willatt, Irene and Michael Albone. We look forward to another visit from the Ignite team on 8<sup>th</sup> June.
- Lately we have said goodbye to Bill McCarthy who has gone to live with his daughter, and we have just heard that Maureen Harty is to leave us to live closer to her family in Devon. We shall miss them both.
- Fr Erico from Downham Market has decided to discontinue the Portuguese Masses here due to lack of numbers.
- From time to time we have a Lithuanian priest who comes from London to look after our Lithuanian speakers.
- We held various house Masses during Advent and hope to do the same during Lent. We will hold a Mass with Anointing of the Sick on Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup>
- The Student Cross walkers will be accommodated in the Methodist Hall this year. They will come here for evening Mass. This will enable our members to attend Chrism Mass at the Cathedral, which is held on the same evening.
- David Davies and Fr James attend meetings of the CIW. In January a number of parishioners attended the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St Augustine's. We shall continue with our village Masses in the better weather.
- Fr James expressed his appreciation for the work of the Social Committee in enabling us to be a community who not only worship together but also enjoy each other's company.
- The Ladies Guild has had a new lease of life as a result of moving their meetings to the afternoon, still on the last Monday of the month.
- Thanks also goes to Chris for his work on the accounts, Kevin for his work on the fabric, Michael Green as our Sacristan, Veronica as our Secretary, Therese Chadwick and the choir, Helena Clarke as our Safeguarding Officer.
- Fr James is to look into having a procedure in place for emergencies in church if anyone in congregation is taken ill.
- Thanks also go to Jean Blackley and the small band of cleaners.

Fr  
James

- The Deanery Clergy met recently and a record number were present including two Conventual Franciscans who have come to live and work in the Diocese.
  - Nothing further has been done about marking the parish boundaries or arranging for the visitation by the Dean.
  - The Deanery Requiem Mass was held here on 5<sup>th</sup> November for the souls of the clergy who served the Church in the past. The Dean warmly thanked all involved in providing a delicious and plentiful lunch which followed.
- 19/02 **Safeguarding Report from Helena Clarke**  
 Helena had attended a Diocese training event on Safeguarding held at Newmarket. Anyone now volunteering will need two referees. The speakers at the training event spoke on Modern Day Slavery and Domestic Abuse. There are help lines available and these will be placed on the noticeboard at the back of church. DBS certificates need to be renewed every 5 years. H  
 Clarke
- 19/03 **Fabric Report from Kevin Tallon**
- The render has been removed from the house and will be replaced when we get some warmer weather.
  - Clear Perspex is being fitted to the large upper window to reduce the draught that is felt from the balcony.
  - The Perspex used to 'double glaze' the church windows is still in the loft so it is proposed to fit these during the winter months.
  - The next quinquennial report is due in 2020.
  - Concern was raised about the damp on the wall near to where the oils are kept. Kevin would check this. K Tallon
  - Michael Green again asked about the unevenness of the carpet tiles in church. Kevin to check on a carpet roll in the 'priest hole'. K Tallon
- 19/04 **Finance Report**  
 Chris Alecock had distributed the accounts for year ended 31 December 2018 to parishioners at the meeting and would distribute to others during the next weekend. A copy would be appended to the minutes.
- The expenditure had been less this year as there had not been any large expenditure as we had last year. The income from the offertory had reduced again by £1,265.  
 The utility bills are very much down this year as there had been a renegotiation with the Rosmini centre and they were now paying a bigger percentage of the bills.  
 Levies for Diocese were down as these are based on the offertory income.  
 Our balance at the end of December was £15,857  
 The Alive in Faith appeal has gone well and in time we will be able to draw a lump sum from this. C  
 Alecock  
 We have had some money left in a legacy from a parishioner. This will come to us in the next few months. Chris would inform the parish once it has been finalised.
- 19/05 **Church Cleaning** Fr  
 James  
 Fr James is to pursue the idea of having professional cleaners contracted to clean in view of the reduction in the number of volunteers.
- 19/06 **Social Committee Report**  
 Isabella Alecock gave the report from the Social Committee. She

mentioned the many events that had taken place including Film Night with fish and chips, Harvest Supper, Shared Lunch at Epiphany, Lunch Club, Pancake Evening and the monthly Cake Stall.

Events being planned include a trip to Norwich for the Chrism Mass. Parish Lunch in May, trip to Walsingham in June and the annual Garden Party in August.

Thanks goes to all the committee members for their continued hard work and to everyone that support the various events.

Chris Alecock reported on the Social Committee accounts. These dated from year end of April 2018. There had been income of £2810 and expenditure of £3108.

19/07 **Items from Parishioners**

No items for the agenda had been received.

It was felt that this could have been because no box had been left at the back of church for any suggestions.

Fr James agreed for the box to be reinstated but said that items that were not signed would not be considered.

Meeting closed with a prayer from Fr James.