

Our Lady and St Charles Borromeo Church

Parish-In-Council meeting 3 July 2019

ACTION

Fr James welcomed 15 parishioners to the meeting thanking everyone for their attendance.

Apologies had been received from Irene Albone, Kevin Tallon

The meeting commenced with a prayer from Fr James who stated that this would be his last Parish-in-Council with us.

19/08 Safeguarding Report from Helena Clarke

Helena updated the meeting of the need for DBS certificates to be renewed from next year. The requirement for renewals is that they happen within 3 – 5 years from the previous certificate date. The next diocese safeguarding meeting will take place on 28 September at Newmarket and if parishioners want to attend could they let Helena know.

19/09 Fabric Report

With the absence of Kevin Tallon Fr James gave the report. The wall of the house and courtyard have been rendered. The West window wooden frame has been constructed ready to take the secondary glazing. The lower windows are to be looked at but some will need to be left to enable opening during the summer. All the items on the quinquennial have been attended to.

19/10 Finance Report from Chris Alecock

Chris reported that the accounts had been made up to the end of the March quarter and had a reasonable comparison to previous years. An agreement has now been reached with the Rosmini Centre for the water rates. They will be responsible for 90% of the bill and us for 10%. Fr James had received a letter from Alive in Faith enquiring as to why he had not claimed any of the money that was due to the parish. Fr James is pursuing this as he was not aware that our share could be claimed before the end of the scheme. Many of the projects quoted as in need doing at the beginning of the scheme have now been undertaken and completed. The legacy referred to in previous minutes was now just about ready for payment. The amount coming to the parish is in the region of £40,000. It is suggested that a decision is made when the new parish priest is in post. In a period of reflection Chris said that when Fr James joined us the house was in poor state of repair and we had just had the quinquennial report. Fr James had worked hard to get the house sorted and by and large we have the quinquennial work finished. The legacy money will go into the diocese account in order to take advantage of the interest rates. Chris thanked Fr James and wished him well for the future.

19/11 Social Committee Report

Isabella Alecock gave the report from the Social Committee. She mentioned the many events that had taken place including the Easter raffle, Parish Lunch in May, trip to Walsingham and the multicultural event.

Future events being planned include the strawberry tea in July, the annual Garden Party in August.

Thanks goes to all who support events and everyone is encouraged to let Isabella know if they are going to attend so that firm numbers are known preventing the cancellation of events.

Isabella thanked Fr James for his contribution and thanked the committee members for their support.

19/12 Church Cleaning

Fr James has left messages with the professional cleaners but no final decision has been made. In the meantime volunteers would continue cleaning. More help is needed from the congregation.

19/13 Items from Parishioners

Two items had been received both from Carmen Green.

1. Is there something that can be done about the carpet tiles as they are very uneven?
2. Can we have a new statue of St Charles Borromeo?

A suggestion from the floor was that we use the Alive in Faith money for these two suggestions. It was agreed that it will be a matter for Fr James' successor to consider.

19/14 Parish Priest Report and statement

- So far there has been eight baptisms, two by the Polish clergy, one by the Lithuanian priest and five by Fr James. Since March there has been seven funerals and a marriage convalidation.
- 11 children have made their First Holy Communion. Thanks go to Veronica, Barbara and Isabella for their work in preparing them. Six older children are also preparing and they will make their First Holy Communion the following Sunday. Mothering Sunday Mass was led by the young of the parish and posies of flowers were handed out to mums.
- 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 had another visit from the Ignite team on 15th June.
- We have a Lithuanian priest who comes from London.
- David Davies and Fr James attend meetings of the CIW. Village Masses are continuing during the summer.
- Fr James expressed his appreciation for the work of the Social Committee in enabling us to be a community who enjoy each other's company.
- 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 and also does the flowers along with Ann, thanks goes to those who have helped with making the church look so good for the Rose Fair. Thanks also to Helena Clarke as our Safeguarding Officer making safeguarding more prominent in our day to day activities.

- Thanks also go to Jean Blackley and the small band of cleaners.
- The Deanery Clergy met on June 12 but Fr James has not had the minutes yet. We have the Dean's Visitation on 8th August.

The Bishop has asked Fr James to move to Cromer and Sheringham with a new priest Fr James Cawfield to come to us in Wisbech. It is hoped that the new priest will visit before the handover.

Fr James finished by saying that it is not the building but the people that make a parish, he was happy to be able to say that he has served the parish of Wisbech.

Meeting closed at 7.55 with a prayer from Fr James.

