

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of St Teresa's Parish Council

Thursday 15th November 2018 8pm

Present; Mgr Sean Healy, John Guilfoyle, Ajith Pantony, John Ojokovoh, Jim Murray, Pat O'Brien, Aran Houlihan- Burne, Annie Dunster, Trish Fearn, Rebecca Nelson, Chris Lennon

Apologies: Brent Adonis, Tricia Barker, Fr Shyju

Fr Sean opened the meeting with the prayer of St Richard of Chichester.

Those present introduced themselves and Fr Sean reviewed Article IV of the Constitution, explaining how each member had come to be there.

The purpose of this meeting is to set the scene.

Returning to the Constitution, the Meeting addressed Article III: Functions.

Where is the Parish at the moment?

A question was asked about Adult Formation and Outreach to returning Catholics. Fr Sean explained about the Landings activities already in place.

In addition, there is a Bible Study group, a Prayer Group, a Rosary Group

We have also invited speakers from outside the Parish, such as Brian Purfield, Fr John Hemer Canon John Udris. Events such as these are open to members of other churches in the area and are often well attended by them, but it was agreed that the advertising and opening of these talks was not done in a systematic way.

How can we communicate to Parishioners about changes in Church practices? An example was given of someone being unaware that Catholics can now choose to be cremated.

Brent has ideas re. working with the younger members of the Parish.

Lynne Adonis has recently been appointed as Diocesan Worker focussing on Family Life.

Young people's activities to flow from First Holy Communion through to Confirmation and beyond.

What do we, as a Parish, think would be achievable?

It was suggested that we brainstorm this at our next meeting.

Welcome and Outreach

Update and/or re-do the Parish Welcome Pack – or is this past its sell-by date?

Trish explained how we used to have a Welcome Ministry and we could perhaps think about this again.

Jim: When new parishioners make themselves known perhaps they could be visited at home. Offer to visit and bless the house?

Rebecca: Is there an RCIA group?

Fundraising

Current fundraising activities were noted.

Pat asked about second collections. Could these be put into special envelopes with the facility to gift aid the donation? Our Gift Aided donations have stayed roughly the same and perhaps we should consider encouraging Parishioners in this direction. Trish to talk to Tony Frall about this.

Fr Sean told the meeting that we are to trial contactless payment for donations. This to be done in the Narthex.

Fr Sean to initiate a presentation by the Finance Committee to the Parish. Pat pointed out that the last one was about 18 months ago.

Fabric and Maintenance

Fr Sean is able to sign off works up to a certain amount (£5000.00). After this the Diocese becomes involved.

Aran has made a list of things he has noticed need to be attended to.

It was agreed that one (or two) members of the Council should take responsibility for this. The Parish Council could be the point of co-ordination for the day to day maintenance of the building fabric.

Communication

We have the weekly Newsletter, the Parish website, Facebook, The Beacon. We need someone to take responsibility for these.

Jim Hannigan, Permanent Deacon from Luton, is the Webmaster for both parish websites.

John Guilfoyle brought up the function of the Parish Office. Parishioners have remarked that when they come at certain times, they can find no one there. The situation needs to be addressed. It was suggested that, at such times when it was necessary to leave the offices unmanned, parishioners be directed to the Presbytery. John O suggested a notice to this effect, Fr Sean had no objections.

Fr Sean drew the attention of the meeting to a communication he had had from the Redemptorist Fathers with a view to holding a Parish Mission in October or November next year.

A date for our next meeting was agreed. Thursday 17th January 2019 at 8pm.

The meeting closed at 9.09 pm.