

MINUTES of the 254th meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council held on Thursday 6th February 2020 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

PRESENT: Father Ioan Sandor, President of the Council, Mrs Josephine Lea, in the Chair, Mrs Maureen Favager, Mr Richard Hall, Ms Debbie Kerry, Mrs Gillian Millyard, Ms Rosemary Muntus, Mrs Mary Robinson, Mr Allan Scott and Mrs Pat Smith.

APOLOGIES: Mrs Carole Kelly

IN ATTENDANCE: Frank Lea, Clerk to the Council

01/20 WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER: Jo welcomed everyone and Father Ioan opened the meeting with a prayer.

02/20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: It was agreed that the MINUTES of the 253rd meeting of the PPC, held on 28th November 2019, constituted a true record. They were signed and dated by the Chairman.

03/20 MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

04/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT SCHEDULED FOR THE AGENDA: Allan Scott said he wished to raise the matter of instituting an online parish diary.

05/2019 REPORT FROM THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Chairman reported on the meeting that had taken place on Tuesday 28th January 2020.

- ❖ **INTERNAL CHURCH ALTERATIONS:** Bruno Ormsby had visited in December and further discussions are under way.
- ❖ **ACCESS TO THE CHURCH HALL:** Five companies were approached to tender for the work. Three of them submitted a quotation. All three came in as more expensive than we originally thought. The Diocese was approached, but suggested that the increased costs would be acceptable. After discussion the Finance Committee agreed that Manning & Woods should be the favoured contractor and final contract discussions are under way to firm up on the technical specifications and price prior to the Diocese placing the order. Alive in Faith funds will be available for this project.
- ❖ **PREZZO WALL:** Ben Nickell from the Finance Committee was still dealing. A meeting has taken place with the local authority and matters are on the move. It is suggested that work could be carried out in March or April this year.
- ❖ **GADS APPEAL:** This will take place over the weekend 7/8 March.
- ❖ **AGM:** The parish AGM will take place on Thursday 21st May following the evening Mass of Ascension Day.
- ❖ **NEXT FINANCE MEETING:** This will take place on Tuesday 5th May 2020.

06/20 DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF LAITY: The next meeting of this Council will take place on Saturday 16th May 2020.

07/20 DEANERY COUNCIL OF LAITY: The next meeting of this Council will take place on Wednesday 11th March 2020 at which the date for the proposed Day of Recollection at Clare Priory should be determined.

08/20 REPORT FROM THE PASTORAL GROUP: Gillian Millyard reported. She said that the next Mas for sick and housebound will take place on Sunday 15th March. There will be a meeting of the Group on Thursday 13th February to discuss:

- Detailed arrangements for the Mass for the sick and housebound
- To examine the responses to the “pink form” returns – about 100 replies
- How to encourage others, who have not replied, to submit their information

09/20 REPORT FROM THE CATECHISM GROUP: Debbie Kerry again reported that there was only one candidate for First Holy Communion this year. Father Ioan said he had an expression of interest from the father of a seven-year-old boy and he would pass the details to Debbie. Mary Robinson had also had a discussion with the grandparent of a young boy who might be a candidate for the First Holy Communion class. To be followed up.

10/20 NEWS FROM CAFOD+: Rosemary Muntus reported. She said that the monthly meetings were well attended by a stalwart few and the group were trying to recruit new folk. The next meeting would be on Tuesday 25th February 2020 when pancakes would be served (Shrove Tuesday). The group were seeking to build their next project around Shelter Box which provides targeted help in many areas of strife or disaster. Some promotional material may be available at the World Food Day. The Lent Family Fast Day is on 6th March concentrating on the provision of health workers. A suggestion has been made that background material is read out at all Masses on the weekend 29 February/1March. The next Soup Day will be on 21st March from 12noon to 2pm. All are very welcome.

11/20 PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Carole Kelly had sent a brief report to the Secretary. The World Food Day will take place in the Stowmarket Scout Hall on Sunday 23rd February. More offers of dishes are still coming in. There will be an Autumn Bazaar this year on Saturday 28th November.

12/20 NEWS FROM STOWMARKET CHURCHES TOGETHER: A further report from Carole Kelly stated that the last meeting had concentrated on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and pulpit exchanges. A further Fun Day is planned for Saturday 29th August. A planning meeting for this event will take place on Thursday 30th April in the parish church at 6pm.

13/20 STOWMARKET & DISTRICT FOOD BANK – UPDATE: Jo Lea reported that demand was still high, but stocks are at a reasonable level. In the year ending 31 January, the parish had contributed 1,350 kg of foodstuffs and £1,720 in cash. A thank you letter had been received from the Food Bank and is displayed in the Narthex.

14/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. **ONLINE PARISH DIARY:** Allan Scott said he was willing to set this up. The diary would be free to see by all on the parish website, but input for entries would be restricted to a few key parish members who would gain entry through a password. It was agreed that this should be done.
- b. **YOUTH REPORT:** Father Ioan suggested that there be a report from the Youth Group for each meeting. This was agreed and Gillian said she would pass this request on to Simon.

15/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting, the 255th will take place on **Thursday 4th June 2020**. The meeting would start at **7.30pm** in the Parish Centre. It was agreed that meetings thereafter would revert to Tuesdays and be held immediately after the evening Mass.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.26pm and the Father Ioan closed proceedings with a prayer.

Signed Date