

MINUTES of the 259th meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council held on Tuesday 7th December 2021 at 7.15pm in the Church Centre.

PRESENT: Father Simon Leworthy, President of the Council, Mrs Josephine Lea, in the Chair, Ms Rosemary Muntus, Mrs Mary Robinson and Mrs Pat Smith.

APOLOGIES: Mrs Maureen Favager, Mrs Carole Kelly, Mrs Gillian Millyard and Mr Allan Scott.

ALSO PRESENT: Frank Lea, Clerk to the Council

25/21 OPENING PRAYER: Father Simon formally opened the meeting with a prayer.

26/21 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME: Jo welcomed everybody to the meeting.

27/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: It was agreed that the MINUTES of the 258th meeting of the PPC, held on 28th September 2021 constituted a true record. They were signed and dated by the Chairman.

28/21 MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

29/21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT SCHEDULED ON THE AGENDA:

30/21 REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Chairman reported on the Finance Committee meeting that had taken place on 30th November:

- Prezzo Wall: As nothing is happening the matter is being referred to the Diocesan Property Advisor for advice as to the way forward.
- Time, Treasure & Talents proposal: This matter is now well in hand and the scripts for the first two weeks of the presentation have been agreed. The programme is to be delivered to the parish over the weekends, 5/6, 12/13 and 19/20 February 2022. Father Simon would deliver the first week's script, Simon Millyard the second and another member of the parish, yet to be decided, for the final weekend.
- The church carpets are being cleaned 6/7 December – completed today.
- The Finance Committee's next meeting will be on 1st February 2022.

31/21 REPORT FROM THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF LAITY: The last meeting had been held on Saturday 20th November. Main points from the Bishop:

- Sunday obligation is not being re-imposed from the First Sunday of Advent due to the ongoing large number of Covid cases
- Diocese representation at COP26 was through the Bishop of Salford and current diocesan representative for Climate Change issues was vested in Father Paul Maddison
- No "white smoke" yet to announce Bishop Alan's successor. There may possibly be a nomination in the first part of 2022
- The diocese has received over £600,000 from Historic England for works on the Cathedral, St Mary's Great Yarmouth, Gorleston and Lynford (church in the forest near Thetford)

The majority of the meeting was taken up with discussion of the 10 Questions in the Synodal Pathway. This was done in groups of three or four and each group reported to the meeting as a whole before the meeting broke up.

The Diocesan Council of laity will meet in 2022 in May and November.

32/21 THE SYNODAL PATHWAY: Pat Smith, as Parish Representative, gave a short report. She said that things were going well and she had a good team to assist her. Many questionnaires had been taken by parishioners when attending Mass and some 20 had been posted out. The collation of the replies will be undertaken around mid-January and Fenella Ford will be formulating the final document to be sent to the diocese.

33/21 DEANERY COUNCIL OF LAITY: There has been no meeting since the last PPC Meeting. Next scheduled meeting will take place in the spring of 2022.

34/21 REPORT FROM THE PASTORAL GROUP: In the absence of Gillian Millyard the report was read by the clerk.

- On Tuesday 16th November a Mass for the Sick was held at 2pm. 26 individuals or couples were invited to the Mass entitled, for the Sick, housebound and Elderly. 4 parishioners were sent a card telling them that they would be remembered at the Mass.
- A Tuesday afternoon was not convenient for everyone, both guests and helpers alike, in fact most of the helpers available were way over retirement age themselves! This said we had 19 invited parishioners come to the Mass and along with helpers and other parishioners we were over 30 in total. Mo Favager played the organ for us and Frank Lea read the readings.
- After Mass Pat Smith did a lovely job co-ordinating the tea while the rest of the helpers assisted and chatted to everyone. After a two-year gap since the last Mass and the COVID concerns it was lovely to hear everyone catching up with each other and especially pleasing to see some of our frailer and housebound parishioners able to join us.
- A big thank you to Father Simon and all the helpers for offering a spiritual and fun afternoon, an event that hopefully can be repeated in the spring.

35/21 REPORT FROM CATECHISM GROUP: Father Simon, who is undertaking the instruction of the candidates for First Holy Communion, said there were eight children in the group, the majority of whom were of Polish extraction. Pat Smith assists Father, but when she is not available Gillian Millyard has agreed to step in.

36/21 REPORT FROM PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Carole Kelly's report was read by the clerk.

- Thursday afternoon cake and chat is going quite well with a core number of 12 plus parishioners coming each fortnight. The Christmas party was really disappointing a lot of work and preparation went into this event, and to say the numbers were poor would be an exaggeration. Edward was the only child to come.
- We understand that the numbers attending Holy Mass are nowhere like pre-covid, but I feel that the social side of our church is an important part of belonging. It welcomes new comers to engage with people and to feel part of the church.

- We have tried advertising events by posters and from the pulpit, but feel more is needed. Perhaps a monthly newsletter letting people know what is happening in the parish or any suggestions. We had planned to do something for Saint Patrick’s Day but on hold for the moment. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

Jo commented that the present format of the newsletter did not lend itself to publicising events taking place and forecast in the parish. After some discussion it was agreed that the matter be looked at in the new year, but before the present supply ran out. To revert to the old format would take a team of at least four parishioners to compile each issue as regards content leaving Father Simon to provide liturgical input including the death anniversaries.

37/21 UPDATE FROM THE STOWMARKET FOOD BANK: Jo reported that the Food Bank was as busy as ever. The emphasis now is on the collection of seasonal goods for Christmas. It was planned that the usual 100 Christmas hampers be prepared and distributed. As last year the boxes would not be covered in Christmas paper. Jo further said that the generosity of the parish, in goods and cash, was greatly appreciated by the Food Bank.

38/21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Mary Robinson raised the question of starting up a “Mums and Toddlers” group. She admitted that it would need a team of six to ten volunteers to be the managers, always depending of the number of people using the facility. In the discussion that followed it was mooted that potential customers would need to be identified and probably use the Mums as the organisers. Mary agreed to do further research and report back to the next meeting.

39/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting, the 260th, would take place in the same location on Tuesday 15th February 2022 starting at 7.15pm.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.32pm and Father Simon closed proceedings with a prayer.

Signed Date

PPC Mins 259