

29 November 2021

Present: Mary Egan (Chair), Nuala Needham, Peter Fijalkowski, Mark Barnaby, Fr Lim Gamsi

Next meeting: **Monday,31 January 2022 7pm Sacristy at Holy Souls**

1. The meeting opened with a prayer

2. Apologies

Apologies from Fr Matthew Jakes, Frances Wattam

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed

4. Proposed Merger of Holy Souls and St Bernadette's

In Fr Matthew's absence there was a general discussion of the principles. Fr Lim provided some context on how it had worked elsewhere in the diocese. The importance of keeping churches open was recognized.

5. Religious Community

The superior of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate has agreed in principle. Further work is now in progress to finalise the agreement with the diocese and to confirm the financing with the four parishes. The three sisters to reside at Holy Souls Presbytery.

6. New Mass arrangements

It was agreed that the on-line booking for Tuesday mass should cease as it was no longer serving the purpose for which it was intended.

There remained the issue of how the church can encourage and facilitate the return to mass of the many who do not feel it is safe to do so. The joint letter from Fr Matthew and Fr Lim was recognized as a good start; but it was important that parishioners got this letter out to as many as possible.

It was agreed that ways need to be found to rebuild parish records of its parishioners while complying with the rules set by GDPR on holding personal data.

7. Property issues

Security

The unsupervised use of the toilets by members of the public when the church is open has caused problems in recent months. They have been left in a filthy state on at least two occasions; there is potential abuse for drug-taking. Given the social and crime issues in the neighbourhood this poses an unacceptable risk to parishioners.

It was agreed that the toilets will be locked whenever the church is open, with arrangements for a nominated key holder. This policy will need to apply for all users of the church and hall including the Polish community and external hirers. Notice to be given.

Mark raised the issue of remote monitoring of CCTV to improve the general security of the site. Peter agreed to contact Fr Neil Peoples on how to arrange it.

Peter will also contact Fr Neil to clarify control of the external security lighting.

Health and Safety

Janice Moran and Peter have completed the general health and safety and fire risk assessments for all parts of the Holy Souls site. These are required for insurance purposes and will shortly be finalized and submitted to the diocese. This is to ensure the site continues to be safe for use and meets all insurance requirements. There will be some points requiring action.

(Formal approval to reopen the Church Hall has now been received)

Vote of Thanks

The hard work Janice has put in for the parish since the start of the pandemic was acknowledged and our thanks recorded. Thanks also to Stephenie for her long standing voluntary work in the parish office.

Also to Edyta Sikora for bringing the hall and kitchen back into use.

8. Pastoral Work

The Synod

Peter gave a brief outline of the process to date. The third meeting is on Friday at St Thomas Gainsborough. Although small beginnings it was a good start to building dialogue in the parishes.

Caritas Social Action

Peter gave the meeting feedback on the launch of Caritas in the Diocese in May; the Here: Now: Us event in Lincoln which he attended in October; and the role envisaged for social action in helping parishes rebuild and work for the common good post-Covid. The agreed next steps were initially focussed on the Lincoln parishes, but lessons could be applied elsewhere. At some point it would be helpful to bring this to Scunthorpe. Peter continues to engage with the Lincoln process and will feed back further in the coming months.

Neighbourhood Action Team

This is a consultative forum for the Crosby Ward, chaired by a ward councillor, attended by the Police and council officers, to allow representatives of the local community to discuss community level issues. Two meetings have been hosted in the Parish Hall. Peter is now a member of the group and has raised the risks posed by drinking/broken bottles in the ten foot and HGVs using it to deliver to the local shops.

First Holy Communion

19 children received their first holy communion on Saturday 16 October.

Eucharistic Ministers

Visits to the sick /housebound are now taking place and extraordinary ministers are assisting in church.

Nuala and Mary reported on different experiences of trying to visit parishioners in local care homes. Some are raising obstacles to access and to administering communion (Sandhills Court).

9. AOB

Fr Lim announced that from 1.1.22 there would be a Latin Mass at 11am each Saturday morning. The Polish Mass would move to 9.30am and an alternative English Mass would be offered at St Bernadette's at the same time.

The meeting closed with the Prayer to Our Lady of Walsingham