

27 September 2021

Present: Fr Matthew Jakes, Mary Egan (Chair), Peter Fijalkowski, Mark Barnaby, Fr Lim Gamsi, Sam Garrity

Next meeting: **Monday, 29 November 7pm Sacristy at Holy Souls**

1. The meeting opened with a prayer

2. Apologies

Apologies from Nuala Needham, Frances Wattam and Deacon Sebastian Grab

3. Welcome

Welcome to Fr Lim our new assistant priest

Also to Sam Garrity who is training for the diaconate on behalf of the parish

4. Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed

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

Bishop Patrick has asked that the two parishes come together into a single entity. This would make it easier for the parish priest to administer, and bring a greater combined capacity to the work of the church in Scunthorpe. The joint working and shared worship that has been essential during the Covid pandemic has already demonstrated the benefits and shown that it would be a practical solution to the reality of fewer priests serving multiple parishes.

Fr Matthew will be consulting the parish communities on the proposal and its implications in the coming weeks/months. The PPC supported the proposal. It recognized the need for sensitivity in working through the detailed implications of the merger, with proper respect for the concerns of both church communities. For example, worship and sacramental formation would continue as now in both churches; bequests made by parishioners to a particular church would be applied as the donor intended.

6. New Mass arrangements

Saturday Vigil and Sunday Mass are both now established and the numbers attending continue to increase steadily as society returns gradually to 'normal'.

The pre-booked Tuesday mass with stewards and formal management has not yet attracted many who may still be shielding and whose health is vulnerable. A discussion was had about how that might be addressed.

7. Property issues

New Sound System

The source of the problem with the current system has been isolated and a fix should be possible. It will be cheaper!

Heating for church and house

Both boilers have been replaced in advance of winter after they failed earlier in the year. The central heating system will now be cleaned.

Church Hall

Mary Egan and Peter Fijalkowski will carry out the Covid Risk Assessment for the Hall on 29 September. Cleaning has already started. The intention is that the Hall and Kitchen should be ready to reopen on 12 October, with the approval of the Diocese.

(The diocese has confirmed that all the general health and safety and fire risk assessments which are required in normal times for insurance purposes must be completed as soon as possible. This is to ensure the site continues to be safe for use and meets all insurance requirements. The regular assessments have been delayed by Covid)

Cleaning Rota

This has now been put on a permanent footing with a weekly clean, two teams alternating

8. Pastoral Work

First Holy Communion

16 children are meeting regularly to prepare to receive their first communion on Saturday 16 October. There will be a dedicated Mass for the children and their families.

Eucharistic Ministers

Visits to the sick /housebound are now taking place and extraordinary ministers are assisting in church. Peter Fijalkowski and Paul Dykstra commissioned November 2019 have joined the team. Any parishioners in need of a visit should make themselves known.

Use of Hall for Parish Groups

This should be possible after 12 October. The request from an established prayer group to hold a prayer meeting in the hall was agreed.

9. AOB

Fr Matthew updated the meeting on progress seeking a group of sisters to live in the Holy Souls Parish House. He has established contact with the Sisters of Mary Immaculate who are already in Holbeach and a request is going forward to the head of the order in Europe. The success or otherwise of the invitation will be known in the next 6 to 12 months. If it proceeds the house will be furnished and one of the sisters will undertake pastoral work in the four parishes

Peter passed on a prayer request from the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham and the meeting ended with the prayer.