

**STM PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Minutes 20 November 2019**

**Meeting opened:** 7:17pm

**PPC Members:** David Broom, Marysa Coulter, Neil Dawson (Chair),  
Rosemary Farrow, Tim Hackwell.

**Secretary:** Sue Morris

1. **Opening prayer:** Neil Dawson.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Mariel Adams, Kevin Burnham, Father Darryl.

3. **Matters arising from previous meetings**

The minutes of the previous meeting held 23.10.19 were circulated prior to the meeting.

Matters arising not covered under separate agenda items were:-

- **Website**

**Ongoing action: David Broom** to see if the PPC minutes on the website can be re-organised so that the newest minutes are at the top of the list.

- **Cleaners**

It was reported that two cleaners, who were part of the Ordinariate, have now left the Parish.

**Ongoing action: Neil Dawson** to compose a notice for Father Darryl to read out at Masses.

- **Bible sessions**

Videos for the bible sessions will be available for loan after Christmas. Sessions to start Wednesday 08 January and will be held either in the hall or in the Sacristy depending on the number of attendees. The previous week's video to be shown immediately before the following session. The films last for ½ hour and there will be an opportunity to stay afterwards for a brief discussion which will be limited to ½ hour. Attendees will be asked if they wish to purchase the book that goes with the films.

**Action: Neil Dawson** to look on the internet to see where the books can be purchased from and how much they cost.

**Action: Neil Dawson** to arrange for an item to be inserted in the newsletter.

- **Aid to the church in need**

Tim Hackwell showed the PPC the spiral candle holder for the font for the octave leading up to "red" Wednesday (27.11.19). Prayers have been downloaded. A bottle for donations will be placed near the candles. It was suggested that a red light could be put in the window on the balcony. David Broom and Tim Hackwell to arrange this.

- **Giving tree**

The Apostleship of the Sea has been contacted and a list of appropriate gifts has been obtained. It was agreed that there should be more labels for smaller items this year.

**Action: Marysa Coulter and David Broom** to make the labels for the tree which will be put up next weekend.

- **Mercy for life**

A payment of £447.50 has been made.

4. **Parish**

**Update on financial picture in the Parish**

Steve Ferris had provided a financial update which was circulated at the meeting detailing the income and expenditure for October 2019 which showed an average offertory amount of £431 per week. The total amount of cash in the bank accounts has reduced to £25K (from £31K) due to the high cost of the quinquennial inspection and the remedial fire and electrical work that the inspection report had highlighted.

It was commented that £25K is not much to hold for contingencies. It was questioned if the Diocese would step in to subsidise any unexpected works that might be required. It was suggested that the Diocese may provide an emergency loan.

As reported at the last meeting the hall boiler will need to be replaced soon. Ideally, the old boiler will last until the summer holidays when the hall will not be in use by the nursery school.

It is expected that the new entrance doors will be installed during the first week in December. This work has been funded by the bequest made by Jo Cassidy.

Steve Ferris had also provided cash flow summaries for the financial years 2001/2 to 2018/19 which showed that Mass counts had decreased from 289 in 2001/2 to 143 in 2018/19.

David Broom commented that, at the Finance and Fabric meeting held the previous week, it was reported that STM's share of the cost of employing Richard Martin had been based on a much higher Mass count than 143. Concern had again been raised at the Fabric and Finance meeting that this was to be an ongoing cost to the Parish. At that Finance and Fabric meeting the pressure from the diocese to use the surveyor recommended in the quinquennial report was also discussed. If all the recommendations made in the report were undertaken the cost to the Parish would be in the region of £130K.

### **Social activities**

#### **Quiz**

The quiz is to take place 30.11.19. Tickets have been sold after Masses and Father Darryl has announced the event at the end of Mass.

#### **Next social event**

It was suggested that another social event be held before the start of Lent. The serving of refreshments after the 9.30am Mass on a Sunday was discussed. Due to lack of attendance this was only planned for the last Sunday of the month and had been run by the Children's Liturgy Group but there has not been one for a considerable time. It was commented that it was always the same people who had attended and that the timing interfered with the 11.15am Ordinariate Mass.

It was agreed that another social event would be discussed at the next meeting when the quiz evening will have taken place.

**Action: All** to think about what the next social event could be for discussion at the next meeting.

### **Ordinariate**

No-one present was aware of anything of significance to note.

### **5. Diocesan**

No-one present was aware of anything of significance to note.

### **6. Pastoral area**

It was reported that Father John Chadwick's vision for the EST was to improve links between St Peter's School (children, parents and teachers) and the Parish communities. The "Remembering those we love" initiative that took place 12-14 November was the first event that had been planned and was reported to have been successful.

Confirmation in 2020 will take place on two consecutive weeks in June as there are approximately 100 children in the Pastoral Area that wish to be confirmed. A member of the PPC commented that last year the programme was very much a St Joseph's event and it was felt that only lip service was paid to the other Parishes in the Pastoral Area. None of the candidates nominally from STM have attended services at STM since being confirmed. As confirmation only takes place now every two years it was predicted that many of the Y9 pupils will choose not to be confirmed.

### **7. Correspondence**

None.

### **8. AOB**

#### **Bidding prayers**

The complexity of the bidding prayers and the relevance to Parishioners of some of the people prayed for was commented on at the last meeting and is still an issue.

### **9. Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 08 January 2020 at 7.15pm. (Rosemary Farrow tendered her apologies for this meeting.)

### **10. Refreshments for next meeting:** Neil Dawson

### **11. Closing prayer:** Neil Dawson.

Meeting ended at 8.20pm