

English Martyrs Liturgy Planning Group

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday 5 June 2018

Present: Fr Michael; Angela Wills; Martin Wills; Anne Hogg; Joe Wise; Peter MacDonald; Charlie MacArthur; Linda Heneghan Philip Gouge; Andy Clayton; Catherine Bond; Susannah Knight

Apologies: Gerard Rocks; Sr Vivian

Welcome and opening prayer: Fr Michael opened the meeting with a prayer and reflection.

Pentecost - thoughts and recommendations:

The decorative doves, made by a prison inmate, were praised and it was felt they assisted in getting across the message in a visual way.

It was felt that the parish should find ways to show the diverse nature of our community every week. **Ideas welcomed**

It was agreed that next year more people should be encouraged to read the Bidding Prayers in different languages - contact with possible volunteers should be made well in advance.

It was also suggested that the parish census could ask people for details about their first language.

It was agreed that the lunch had been a great success. Future events should be put in the parish diary as far in advance as possible to ensure that no events are held in the immediate run-up to them. The setting up of a parish hospitality team should be explored.

Fr Michael gave a brief update on the proposal to install IT screens in the church. An appeal visit is being made by Historic Churches to review the proposal.

Support for parish liturgies during renovation work:

Volunteers are needed to help clean the church on Friday and Sunday evenings.

Bereavement and Funerals:

Gerard Rocks and Anne Hogg have contacted Readers and Eucharistic Ministers to compile a list of those willing to help at funeral Masses when necessary.

As a result of the renovation project, no funerals will be held in the church until work is concluded.

Work is progressing on producing a leaflet for bereaved families.

Anne Hogg and Susannah Knight to investigate the purchase of a new pall stand - a white pall can then be produced to suitable design.

Fr Michael will explain the proposals to churches in the pastoral area with a view to having a standardised approach.

Advance planning for Lent:

Angela Wills to contact Rabbi Mark and propose organising a talk during Lent - possible subjects could be the three great Feasts and/or the Psalms.

Prayer Opportunities during Ordinary Time:

Sr Vivian is now organising prayer vigils every month.

Share the Journey:

Linda Heneghan outlined the project and it was suggested that the parish could participate by having walks round Prospect Park. Fr JP is also to be contacted to see if staff at the Royal Berkshire Hospital could take part by walking the one-mile perimeter of the hospital.

Children's Liturgy:

Catherine Bond outlined the need to make some changes to the current arrangements and encourage more children to take part.

It was agreed that as from September the sessions will be held on a monthly basis - timed to coincide with Name Badge Sunday.

Leaders of the group will join the name badge volunteers prior to 9.30 Mass and invite

Children to take part, as well as explaining to their parents about the sessions.

More publicity is needed - a notice will be published in the previous week's newsletter as well as promoting the liturgy sessions on the parish website and facebook site.

Catherine Bond will prepare a short write-up for the EM School Key Stage 1 letter to parents.

Andy Clayton to arrange for a server to attend the sessions if possible.

If suitable leaders can be recruited, the Children's Liturgy sessions could be extended to 11.30 and 5pm Masses.

Date and time of next meeting: 6 pm Tuesday 10th July

Catherine Harrington will attend this meeting so that we can reflect together on how we prepare families for, and celebrate, Baptisms in our parish