

Minutes for EM Liturgy Meeting – 18th September 2018 at 6pm

Attendees : Father Michael, Linda Heneghan, Anne Hogg, Peter MacDonald, Gerard Rocks, Sr Vivian, Angela Wills, Martin Wills,

Apologies : Catherine Bond, Andy Clayton, Phil Gouge, Susannah Knight, Charlie McArthur, Joe Wise.

Welcome and opening prayer

From Last Meeting: Parish Film Proposal

- Joe Wise's proposal was well received and considered worth the expenditure and would need to be done well.
- Fr M would like this to be the start of an ongoing initiative to capture the spirit of future parish events and illustrate our vision, which could be shared via social media and projected onto the new screens in church. He has been in touch with one of his old parishioners in Eastleigh, with a Masters degree in film, who may be able to provide advice and training.
- In the light of recent changes in data protection laws it was felt that permission would need to be obtained from all those featured – possibly a “blanket” permission could be signed by all parishioners ...?
- As all present agreed in principle, Fr M will put the proposal to the Parish Finance Committee.

From Last Meeting: Children's Liturgy

- It was noted that Catherine Bond had spoken at Mass to announce plans for this to take place on the first Sunday of each month in future (beginning in October) and asking for additional help to bring the Gospel to the children at their level of understanding.

From Last Meeting: Name Badge Day

- AW reported that, as it had subsequently been discovered that a new coordinator was not required after all, GR had willingly agreed to stand down.
- Fr M would like this to be reviewed to avoid it becoming “samey” and predictable (a job for the strategy team?) and it was suggested that, instead of merely introducing themselves, parishioners ask each other additional questions (e.g. where from? confirmation name? etc.)

Update on Divine Renovation Initiative, Vision Statement and Focus on Welcome

- Fr Mark Hogan, Diocesan Vicar for Evangelisation, has invited several priests/parishes who are taking part in the Divine Renovation Initiative to meet together for mutual support.
- FR M spoke about English Martyrs' Vision Statement, as introduced at Mass two weeks ago “**English Martyrs is a welcoming community, inviting, encouraging and supporting all to have an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus. We are inspired to show God's love to the world with joy and hope**”. All parish groups need to be aware of this and incorporate it into their activities. He spoke on key words as we go “from maintenance to mission” including :-
- Formation: the vision must be common to all - sacramental preparation groups, RCIA, Alpha courses, Emmaus groups, parish ministries etc. , unifying them so that all can see the wider picture.
- “Called and Gifted”: (now revised and more “person-friendly”) will encourage more people to identify their own God-given gifts and use them for the benefit of the parish by sharing in its mission.
- Praise and worship.
- Sharing God's love – with other churches (through links with other denominations in the town and support of foreign parishes) and through social action : SVP, Cafod, CIRDIC, Bamenda etc. It was suggested that the parish could perhaps work towards having a special project as its prime focus for outreach.
- Welcoming: This should go beyond welcoming at Mass is (e.g. new parishioners' welcome pack?) and celebrate diversity. MW has already had a meeting with Chris Burton and another is planned which welcomers' reps will attend.

Fr M concluded by saying that, with the vision identified, an action plan is being worked on. The Parish leadership team will be meeting with leaders of those groups likely to be involved. Some goals have already been identified but it is a major culture shift and it is difficult to specify a time scale - but progress will be monitored.

Update on Renovation Works and Screens.

- Screens have been tested and it is hoped that key people will be trained in their operation once the engineer returns from holiday (target – mid October). Fr JP is very keen to be involved in their implementation. Parishioners are already working on resources. Introduction to the screens is a work in progress and adaptations will be made as they are needed.
- New sound system: Work is ongoing to balance sound levels between celebrant and musicians and teething troubles are being sorted out. It was suggested that concelebrants so need to be mic'd up too.

Prayers before Mass for Readers & Eucharistic Ministers.

- It was agreed it is not ideal that, while sacristy is still unavailable, these are being held in colonnade, which is somewhat busy (chaotic ?!) before Mass starts. It was suggested that the ministers' prayers could possibly take place on the altar.
- Discussion followed on whether the cut-off point for replacing Ministers absent from prayers should be rigidly enforced. The consensus was yes. Latecomers should still check in to see if perhaps they are still needed. All ministers, whether scheduled or replacements, should know they are ministering before Mass starts.
- Eucharistic Ministers are still in short supply at 6.30 and 5.00 Masses, so finding replacements can be a challenge and it was agreed that there is a need for more to be commissioned.
- Fr M will continue to purify chalices after Mass for the time being. This has enabled him to see how much of the precious blood has not been consumed and thus to better gauge how much wine is needed in the first place.

First Friday Prayer

- Sr V outlined the current format as it has evolved over recent months: Rosary / presentation of theme / readings and reflection / adoration of Blessed Sacrament / petitions or intentions & variable additional elements (confession available) / Benediction.
- At Fr M's suggestion "topical" themes such as reparation for sex abuse scandals will also feature and it is hoped to invite a charismatic prayer group from Arundel & Brighton diocese.

Advance Planning for Advent

- A new charity or project to focus on would be needed this year.
- Another Carol Service is planned but Adam Wlasak will not be able to organise this year. Blessed Hugh Faringdon School would like to be involved, which we would like to encourage, but there are practical considerations i.e. (a) based on last year's attendance would this make the event too crowded? (b) The only date suggested by BHF is Wednesday December 19th (c) It is thought the new Head at EM School would like her children to take part as well. FR M asked several members of the group to liaise with those who organised last year's Carol Service and representatives from EM and BHF schools.
- Suggestions for Advent. Anne and Angela will prepare some ahead of our next meeting. Help with this would be very welcome.

Bereavement Planning Leaflet and All Souls Day Mass

- The leaflet prepared by the Bereavement Group can be consulted in the Parish Office
- First Friday Prayer will be deferred to a later date in November because of Bereavement Mass on Friday Nov. 2nd

Actions evening

- Film: Fr M to raise with Parish Finance Committee.
- Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Welcomers Coordinators to update their groups .
- Carol Service: A: Anne Hogg, Peter MacDonald, Angela Wills to liaise with Chris Ferreira at Blessed Hugh Faringdon and Cathy Doberska at EM.

No dates were discussed for future meetings. Meeting closed at 7.07pm