

ST ALBANS CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

15th September 2016

Present:- Fr Paul, Juan Carlos, Louise Franik, Andy Brough, Amanda Wilson, Jo Rowlands, Sandra Endsor, Catherine Endsor, Cath Green, Linda McCauley, Carl Mendonca, Stuart Olivier, Jamie Roppa,

Apologies:- Mark Booton, Nick Carberry and David McArdle

Welcome by Stuart Olivier - Chairman

Opening Prayer: led by Fr Paul

Previous Meeting's Minutes/ Matters arising:

A copy of the previous minutes was handed to everyone – Holy Water had been sorted!

Update on Mass Changes

The questionnaires were given out at mass last week and are to be handed back by 25th September. It was thought the main problems would be transport and possibly Derby County home matches with regard to traffic at the end of the match.

Fr Paul mentioned from his Bishop's Council meeting there is a priest from Brisbane Australia Fr Francis Onwunalia who is taking a six months sabbatical and would like to come to the Nottingham Diocese. Fr Paul has asked for him and if he does come to Derby will stay at St Hugh's and help Fr Paul out so it could put back changing mass times etc until next year. Fr Francis would come January to June if he does come and once Fr Slavic leaves Fr Paul will have help from the Deanery until January.

Fr Paul has another meeting in November which should shed some light on Parish groupings in our Deanery.

Farewell to Fr Slavic

It is the norm for this to be done after Fr Slavic leaves and then invite him back for a weekend to celebrate his time with us.

Parish Questionnaire

The one about the evening mass is to be brought back by 25th September. Fr Paul has to carry out a "census" how many people come to the masses and what categories – ages etc. Sandra Endsor mentioned doing this in blocks by

colour coding age groups and people, on entry into church, take a colour which represents their age and then put it in one box collecting all the colours. These can then be collated. Sandra and Fr Paul to go into this later.

Disables access to garden gate

This was discussed and it was thought it would be better to slab the whole area from the hall up to the path and the gate to the car park. In this way it would extend the hall in that a gazebo or two could be put on the patio for functions etc and it would be easier to get out of all three doors should there be a fire in the hall. Everyone thought this was a very good idea and Fr Paul would get a price for this and hopefully get it done before winter.

Parish Groups

Stuart is updating this and will email everyone with a copy. Crossing the Threshold to be added – Catherine Endsor.

Events

24th September Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral. There are about 40 people down for this and both the bus and the tour round the Cathedral will have to be subsidised.

There is to be a organ and piano recital together with the youth choir

Harvest festival with auction and social this Saturday 17th September

Harvest Supper at Oakwood 1st October

Sick and Retired Priest Fund charity ball is being arranged. Lisa is to liaise with James about this.

We are well on our way with our quota for the Sick and Retired Priests Fund and still have a year to go with this.

Andy wondered if an outdoor music festival could be arrange next year around June time. The St Albansbury Day wasn't as good this year so perhaps this could be arranged in place of this.

The Memorial Service this year is 13th November at 2.30pm

The Deanery RCIA meetings start again on 21st September at English Martyrs but it was though that a local "Discovering Our Faith" meeting say once a month for a year could be beneficial not only to non-catholics but to everyone wanting to learn about their own faith. Fr Paul and Juan Carlos to look at putting a programme together.

It would be good to celebrate the end of the Year of Mercy. All parishes have a legacy to continue this. The school and the parish to do one thing each. It could be to sponsor say five children's education. Perhaps the Crossing the Threshold group could take this on.

Suggestions

Stuart mentioned that a newly married couple had moved into the parish and wondered if there were any other newly married couples they could meet with or something similar.

? Lent Group perhaps have meal and chat through the six weeks of Lent. Cath thought this could be the six weeks between Lent and Pentecost when everyone was not fasting which seems a better idea.

Also someone mentioned that the Christmas Service was rather traditional!

Any other business

Cleaning Rota - Could there be another request in the newsletter for additional cleaners.

Grass cuttings is rather hit and miss. St Hugh's employs a gardener to mow the lawns fortnightly at a cost of £30. Fr Paul to ask how much he would charge to do the lawns at St Albans as it was thought this would be better as he would bring his own tools etc.

The electrical inspection has been done and the cost of installing LEDs was discussed. The savings would be quite considerable and it would not take long to recoup the cost. Corridor and toiler £350, Hall £792 and outside £1,170 to replace the cases but only £495 to replace the bulbs. It was thought Fr should go ahead with this.

Next meeting Thursday 3rd November at 7.30pm after evening mass.