

Parish of Our Lady of Kirkstall Parish Council Meeting  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**In attendance:** Rev Fr Patrick Smyth, Margaret Barnes, A. Waddington, E Aitken, M Emly, M Emly, E Liddell, J Trumble, C Lees, S Haywood, Rev Fr. Emmanuel, P Stewardson

Meeting opened with a prayer led by Fr Pat.

M Barnes opened the meeting, welcoming all present & asked for apologies.  
Apologies from A Dale.

1. No **matters arising** from last meeting.

**2. Live Simply –**

M Emly gave a brief outline of the plans of the LS group.

The general feeling was they wanted to maintain the link of project to the liturgical year. A goal would be to reach out to particularly children and their parents and after discussion, it was decided that as Assumption are linking their children's liturgy on 6/7<sup>th</sup> Oct to St Francis, the other churches would be asked if they felt able to do similar?

It was felt imperative that we re-do parish survey in late winter, early spring to see what impact the LS work has had on the parish and if people have changed their ways/perceptions of the LS ideal.

They would also like to continue with the Gardening at the three churches

ME was asked about putting the Parish forward for the LS award & he felt that if we put the Parish forward in April for an assessment, there was no reason to believe it could not be achieved before summer.

It was his considered opinion, & that of others at the meeting, that the Parish has achieved more in a year than many have in all the years they have been part of the scheme.

MB said a "massive thank you" must be given to Michael and the subcommittee for all the impressive work they have done so far.

**3. Mass Attendance**

Much discussion was had about mass attendances and how they had fallen in recent years and if there was a solution to be had. As part of this, Fr. Pat shared sheet with factors having negative affect on Mass attendance, work patterns, Sunday sports etc.

He also shared a sheet with the numbers of Baptisms vs Funerals. Those dying were regular contributors to parish life, less so with the families of those being baptised.

The meeting was asked to consider the following points:

- What does that parish do that has a positive impact on Mass attendance.
- If we promoted the social side of the Parish more, could we get more people engaged that way?
- Is there any value in sending out a Questionnaire about why people do not attend Mass? This could be shared through the schools.

It was pointed out that giving this out at Mass was "preaching to the choir" but it was felt that regular Parishioners Mass them on to non-practicing friends. The forms could be returned anonymously

The question arose about when the questionnaire would be sent out.

The hope would be before the next meeting? However, a lot of work needs to be done on the questionnaire and it needs to be revisited at the next meeting.

Fr. Emanuel suggested that we consider:

- a dedicated monthly family Mass? Children providing the singing,
- Once a year Children's Mass and social event? Mass, picnic and football tournament
- Attaching a social event to attending Church for the Children?

#### **4. Schools.**

P Stewardson now the coordinator for RE across the two primary schools and the two schools are looking to work more closely together.

The Council were informed that SM had their Section 48 RE inspection before the summer and came out with Outstanding.

HN had Ofsted came back as Good with elements of outstanding, which was a testament to the work of the staff after a turbulent few years.

It is hoped that the Christmas Carols service could be opened up to the parish?

Faith in Action is moving forward with SM.

PS is very keen to promote active involvement between schools and the three churches. He hopes that Parishioners could be encouraged to attend the class masses that are held within the school. It should not just be parents/ grandparents attending.

PS agreed to let the Parish know if there is any events coming up at which we can encourage the parishioners to attend.

#### **5. Christmas Mass Times**

Fr Pat felt we should keep the same Mass times and places as previous years.

##### **Xmas Eve:**

Assumption 5:30 Carols and Mass at 6:30 Mass.

HN 7pm Carols, Mass 7:30pm. Mass at 10.00 5pm Mass for Families

Sm Mass for families at 5pm

##### **Xmas day**

10pm at SM & HN

#### **AOB**

1. Combined **Parish Raffle**, to run again this year as it was very successful last year. Lists to go up asking for people to donate raffle prizes.

2. **Decoration of Xmas** trees by different organisations within the Parish. Each group would have a small tree to decorate to represent them. SM has the largest space so they could be displayed there. The Leeds Guild of Singers, are performing at SM on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm so the trees would have to be up before then. Teresa Todd to prep something for the newsletter and replies for those interested to Su/ Amanda by 9<sup>th</sup> November. Should not be a real tree, could be artificial, from recycled. Trees to go up morning of 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Fr Pat will say Mass on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm (which will fulfil the Sunday Obligation) and, as part of the Mass, will bless the trees.

Refreshments to be served afterwards.

Church to be opened for people to come and see the trees during the week. Times to be finalised & leave a donation for a worthy cause (e.g. East Timor).

3. JT & EL extended a heartfelt thanks to Holy Name, St. Marys and Fr Pat for all the support they have given to support the education of young people and refugees in the Homework Club

4. Fr. Pat shared refugee newsletter. He felt it would be nice to try and get out work featured in a future issue

8. Next meeting - Jan 30<sup>th</sup> 2019. HN hall 7:30pm

**Please note new date**