

## **St Mary's Pastoral Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2015**

**Present:** Father P. Smythe, M Barnes (Chair) J Barnes, S Turnbull. M Teed, P Kirkby, M Jones, A Dale, J Arbuckle, H Taylor.

**1. Apologies:** H McShee, M McCormick

2. Fr Smythe led an opening prayer.

3. **The minutes of the previous meeting** were accepted as a true record

#### **4 Matters Arising**

a. Paul from Holy Name has agreed to play the keyboard at Armley

b. Coffee after 11.00am mass has been discontinued due to lack of numbers

c. Links with Menston – MB to follow this up with the Headteacher

#### **5. Church Events**

- Fr Pasquino's presentation went very well. Stephen sent him some photos that were taken on the night. Copies of these will be included in the next Parish newsletter.
- Fr. Boniface's presentation was also a resounding success. The social event afterwards was particularly appreciated and enjoyed by Fr. Boniface.
- Christmas masses. The 5pm Christmas Eve mass was particularly well attended with 703 people in the church! However at Midnight only 73 parishioners turned up. We felt that midnight mass was no longer popular with parishioners and that we would suggest that it should not continue in future years. Holy Name holds a 10.30pm mass which would be a practical alternative for those who like to attend at Midnight. We will announce this in the church bulletin and ask for any comments so we could consider these at the next meeting.
- Some suggestions were made to streamline the format of the 5pm Christmas Eve mass, including moving the confirmation group's procession to the start of mass, shortening the meditation after communion and having the baby brought to the crib by their mother, rather than the confirmation group.
- Hilary suggested that it might be helpful to have a definite rota in place for opening up the church for Sunday masses.
- The Leeds Guild of Singers' concert went really well and the display of cribs was wonderful.
- The mass for young families in October was very positively received and more families turned up than had been expected! However the activities and the mass went smoothly despite the great number of attendees. Fr. Pat has prepared a summary of the responses to the request for feedback which we will circulate and discuss before holding the next event. All families were happy to keep St Mary's as the regular venue as it had the most appropriate facilities within the parish. Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March was proposed as the next date.

**6. Peace Sunday.** Will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> January. Fr Pat will deliver a "Pax Christi" homily at 8.15 mass and an external speaker has been invited to the 11.00 mass.

#### **7. Events in Lent and Easter.**

a). A Gospel Music service was suggested – however the group has dispersed as several of the young members have now gone on to attend university. Also, the schools have other commitments at that time of year. It was felt that the event would fit better as part of the Parish Feast on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> July. It was St Mary's turn to host the Parish feast so when the programme was being planned, this musical event would be incorporated, possibly followed by a BBQ.

b). Ash Wednesday – We agreed that the evening mass at St Mary's could start at 7.45pm to make the logistics easier for the priests attending masses in all three churches.

c). Parish penitential service. St Mary's will host this on 25<sup>th</sup> March. Fr Marc will organise it.

d). Lenten Stations will be repeated as usual before Sunday masses.

- e). Holy Week services will be organised by Fr. Marc, and a meeting will be held with him to assist in the planning.
- f). Horsforth Churches Together are sending out news about house group meetings and talks at local churches. The Good Friday procession will start at St. Mary's as usual. A Dawn service will be held in the park. Lent Discussion Group at Assumption. Each Thursday morning after Mass during the five weeks of Lent Chris Jackson will lead discussions in the Assumption Social Centre on the Suffering Servant Songs (Isaiah) and the Messianic Psalms (which are used in the Liturgies of Holy Week).
- g). The Easter Vigil mass at St Mary's will start at 7.30pm with the usual buffet afterwards in the school hall.

## **8. Sacramental Preparations**

- a). All courses are underway at all 3 churches. There are over 30 confirmation candidates. Bishop Marcus will preside at the confirmation which will be hosted at St Mary's on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May, followed by a buffet in the school hall as usual.
- b) Last year there were 78 baptisms held in the Parish, and 23 marriages (with 11 scheduled so far for 2015) and 40 deaths.

## **9. Spiritual Support for Readers and Ministers.**

Fr Richard Taylor has been invited to lead the day of reflection, which will be held at Holy Name on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March.

## **AOB**

1. The OLK Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January will be attended by Margaret, John, Stephen and Alicja
2. The Angelus should be said before every Sunday mass, and readers will be reminded about this.
3. Parish Practice – the next 4 articles will be reviewed at the Parish Council meeting.
4. At the end of 2015, 4 committee members will have to retire (Pat, Maureen, Paul & Helen). Margaret will make an announcement at mass later in the year to encourage new members to stand for election.
5. Lenten Alms Boxes – Su will send a supply to St Mary's which will be used to collect money for the Marie Anna Trust.
6. Hilary asked, on behalf of Churches Together, if the Parish had a "Fair Trade" certificate. Fr. Pat confirmed that we did. Hilary will report this fact back to Churches Together.
7. Jude asked if this was an appropriate time for the Parish to review mass times at all 3 churches. The committee felt that the current mass times worked well and had been agreed by each church community at the formation of the Parish.
8. Musicians from each church in the Parish have suggested meeting together to share resources, particularly with regard to Mass Settings and the Parish Feast.
9. Stephen thanked the SVP for organising the Senior Parishioners' Christmas Party. Numbers attending were declining, so the SVP will be asked to consider whether the parties can be amalgamated into one venue in future, although this would inevitably cause logistical problems with the transport arrangements.
10. Fr. Pat reminded us that we had planned to issue an information sheet about St Mary's Church and its special features. We should try and get this published in preparation for the next "Treasures Revealed" Open Day.

The next Pastoral Committee meetings will be held on

- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015.
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015

**N.B. Please note that these dates have been changed to Tuesdays, rather than the Wednesdays that were originally planned.**