

Parish Council Meeting

6 March 2008

Present: Fr Will, Fr Oliver, Ian, Pat, Ruth, Sandra, Gerry, Ken & Madelon

Apologies: Martine, Thelma, Paul, Sean & Maria

Fr Will led the opening prayer

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Parish Team report

Clergy: Fr Gary is chaplain at St Thomas' Hospital but is still living at the presbytery and able to say mass at the weekends. Fr John will be leaving for Orpington and a supply priest is expected. Fr George and Fr Noah will be back for the summer.

Lent: during the season and hopefully throughout the year morning prayers will be said at 7.40 am before the 8am mass on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays.

Stations of the Cross: after the 6.15 mass on Wednesday and Friday. Also Holy hour on Sundays will be led by the clergy and groups of the parish.

Lenten talks: three talks on the vision of Jesus based on Pope Benedict's book Jesus of Nazareth will be given by John Cullen on Tuesday evenings, 26 February, 4 & 11 of March.

Sacramental Programme: baptism sessions are going well. First Holy Communion reconciliation service on Saturday 8 March at 10.40 am. RCIA rites of welcome/sending took place on 27 January during the 11.15 mass. Rite of election on 9 February at St George's Cathedral. Sacraments of initiation on Easter night – there will be one for baptism, seven for confirmation and three for First Holy Communion.

Health & Safety /CCTV

CCTV is going in at the moment. The veil of the tabernacle was stolen recently and lots of money gets stolen from the boxes. There will be monitoring screens in the sacristy and office. The total cost will be about £4000.

Mosaic Project

Sessions are run every Tuesday with a break for Easter. Fr Will invites everyone to take part and asked if the ppc could do a corner. The project belongs to everyone. There will be a wooden cross with purple cloth placed outside the church during Lent and the Easter season. The statue of the Risen Christ is coming and Fr Will has ordered two mannequins to be dressed up as soldiers.

Social Events

During the 75th anniversary the old clergy will be invited. A little history of the parish is being written. Celebrations will include a mass and a barbeque at school with possibly a band. Fr Will raised the idea for the PPC members to be involved in the bidding prayers.

Towards a Vision

A response booklet from the Archbishop was distributed and Fr Will urged everyone to read it before the next meeting. Gerry offered to lead the discussion. St Anselm's had been complimented on the work that we have done with regards to the vision for the diocese.

AOB

The school hasn't appointed a head yet and the post will be re-advertised. Fr Will urged us all to keep praying for a successful conclusion to this process. A discussion ensued about the disappointments for the pupils who did not get their first choice in applying for secondary school places. Fr Will emphasised that we have been very lucky thus far and that every pupil did get a Catholic school place. Ian raised the fact the parents are anxious about future places and that this may affect their decision making about applying for certain schools in the future. We all felt we need to support our families and community in our Catholic choices.

Madelon asked whether recycling bins could have more prominence for the welcome session after 10 am mass, thereby encouraging more people to recycle their plastic cups. Ken added that more could be done to promote more responsibility for cleanliness.

Fr Will mentioned that ideas are circulating to do more for the elderly of the parish, such as regular lunches.

Ruth wondered why we didn't take the opportunity to celebrate St Anselm's feast day this year as it falls outside Holy Week this year.

Date of next meeting: 13 May 2008 at 8PM

Officers: Chair: Paul
Minutes: Ian
Prayer: Madelon
Refreshments: Ken