

**OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH SHERINGHAM AND CROMER
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**

11th March 2020

1. **Present:** Father James Fyfe, Mary Mustoe-Arthur, Darryl Smith, Colin Fisher, Ann Davies, Keith Holt, Richard McNulty, Bill Horner.

Other Attendees: 3 parishioners.

Opening Prayer for our Parish

God, the creator and giver of all good things, bless our Parish in this united endeavour. Strengthen our faith and grant us the spirit of sacrifice that, with your help, we may provide for the needs of our Parish, give glory to you and sanctify ourselves. We ask this through Christ our Lord Amen.

2. **Apologies for Absence:** Gavin Dvelys, Anne Buxton, Veronica Marett, Janet Arbutnot
3. **Minutes of 5th December 2019** - Minutes signed as true record by Chair.
4. **Matters Arising** – Caroline O’Grady has resigned from the PPC thanks recorded to her. **Action** Richard McNulty as Chair to write to thank her for her contribution.
5. **Finance Committee report**
Keith Holt reported. Year-end accounts have been submitted to the Diocese. Once approved these will be put on the notice boards at each church. There was a recorded deficit of £21K caused by replacement of septic tank at Cromer. This year will also be challenging given that the heating system at St Joseph’s will be replaced (approximately £36k). There have been discussions at the Finance Committee about increasing contributions via weekly collections and gift aid and there will be appeals later this Spring to ask for more people to Gift Aid. The demographics of the parish are challenging. Keith is working on compliance with new Diocesan forms and systems and there is ongoing dialogue as this settles in. There will also be a ½ yearly return in June which is a new requirement. Question was raised about Alive in Faith – as a pilot parish our initial engagement has ended but the Bishop is exploring other options for people to continue this support. Thanks were given to all involved with the Finance of the parish especially Keith and the Finance Committee.
6. **St Vincent House: progress report**
Michael McMahon provided a very comprehensive report which was read to members. The house continues to be fully occupied and the occupancy rate is nearly 100%. Michael reported that the SVP has been meeting incidental expenses for families and this is a big financial commitment. Extensive use is made of charity applications to bring in additional funds. The Diocese continues to be supportive and the project is seen as an example of best practice nationally. (see item 8)
7. **Parish 100 Club**
Peter Godfrey reported that numbers were down from 209 allocated numbers in 2019 to 149 in 2020. Several supporters who had held lots of numbers had died and this had a considerable impact. Discussion re: changing prize money amounts etc. However, it was agreed that it was not a good idea to make changes in year and that there should be a push to encourage regular parish visitors to sign up during the summer (as well as other parishioners who were not yet involved) and that this item should be discussed again at the September meeting and, if agreed, it would be publicised that the prizes were being reduced for 2021. Peter and Breeda were thanked for all their work on this.
Action: to be discussed at September PPC
8. **Link with the Holy Land** – The parish supported Project Greek Catholic Annunciation Society Mother and Child Welfare Centre has been sent £520 from the coffee donations after mass. £500 was also sent to Stable Door. However, Darryl reported that Stable Door was in a very healthy financial position and proposed that this amount was given to the North Norfolk SVP given the issues described in item 6 above. This was unanimously agreed with the principle that we support home and away charities.
Action: Darryl.
9. **Parish Priest Update**
a. Website updates – Parish website contains some out of date information. Mary MA and Father to meet and work on content. Richard said Sean McNulty may be able to make changes once we have the revised content. **Action: MMA and Father initially.**
b. Parish Priest activity: Father reported: 1 wedding, 1 baptism and 14 funerals. 2 new couples have joined the parish and have had a home blessing.
c. Social Events: well supported and enjoyable quiz night. Parish Christmas lunch organised by Michael Trott went well and the Shrove Tuesday pancake evening was very enjoyable. Thanks sent to Maureen Sibellas for organising this.

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- c. Children's liturgy St Joseph's** – Father James thanked Michele Otway and Anne Potts for their work.
- d. Patronal masses:** 19th March Feast of St. Joseph sung mass at St. Joseph's at 7pm, 25th March Annunciation 7pm sung mass at OLR – Light refreshments available after each service.
- e. Mission appeals** – 2 appeals agreed. 23rd and 24th May Father Francis from the Comboni Missionaries and October 10th and 11th Missio (Association for the Propagation of the Faith -Red box) Father James will take some holiday at these times. The visiting priests will say the weekend Masses.
- f. Father James cover** – Once a month (bar August) Father James will be away for Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning mass. These times will be covered by Father Michael Stokes a retired priest from Brentwood Diocese now resident in Hunstanton.
- g. Presbytery kitchen** – Father James wished to formally thank the parish for the refurbishment of the kitchen. All is now complete and he is very happy with changes.
- h. Food bank** - thank you letter received by us for our help achieving the months total of 2,947.79 kgs food donations.
- i. Feedback from Deanery meeting March 2020**
- i. Health and Safety** including safe candle use/fire drills/first aid cover etc. Deanery discussion external Health and Safety reviews are being carried out and we should expect one. Actions will be decided follow that assessment.
- ii. Coronavirus** – continues to be monitored by Diocese with specific advice on care of the dying/terminally ill. Pastoral care should continue with adaptations as advice emerges from health officials. Changes have already been made and the Bishop will decide re large events such as the Chrism mass and Station mass. Father James will keep us updated. Recognition of concerns to keep us **all** safe in this uncertain time. Practical steps have already been taken e.g. removal of holy water, no chalice and suspension of physical contact at kiss of peace. Further measures may include having a container for donations to avoid baskets passing from hand to hand.
- Question raised re communion and spiritual communion** – some confusion about this. Father James clarified the Church teaching and will insert something into the bulletin or preach to update parishioners. Masses are not yet being cancelled and it is hoped this would not happen but the response from the Bishop is to be sensible and careful for the welfare of all. Any measures are pragmatic and temporary. The PPC welcomed the prompt and proactive response from the Diocese and Bishop.
10. **Future of PPC** – Father wishes to have suggestion boxes in each church where parishioners can put suggestions for the PPC. They can then speak to the meeting on their item. This could include days and times of meeting to enable greater participation by parishioners. This is likely to happen over the summer.
11. **Any Other Business**
- i. World Day of Prayer** – OLR hosted a very successful event last week, organised by Breeda. Good turn out from other churches. Some misinformation had arisen that the event was **only** for women and men were not welcome. This is not the case and men **are**, and have **always been** welcome. This will be clarified in next year's publicity and PPC members encouraged to correct any misinformation.
- ii. Easter Rotas** - reminder these are in both churches for readers to sign up. Eucharistic Ministers are not needed this year as a Coronavirus precaution.
- iii. Offertory collection** - question raised as to whether this should be placed on the altar as it was an offering. Father James clarified Church teaching on this the altar should be only for the bread and wine and the prayer book.
- iv. Archbishop Peter Smith** – service at the Cathedral on 27th March at 11.30am. Requiem at Southwark Cathedral on Monday 30th March 12 noon. May his soul Rest in Peace.
- v. Council of Laity** – next meeting on 16th May at Poringland, Breeda continues to attend this on behalf of parish. Any interested parishioners encouraged to attend.
- vi. Garden of Remembrance at St Joseph** – Keith alerted that the space is now limited. Father James aware.
- vii. Pilgrimage Documents** – some information still at back of churches – cancellations may occur because of coronavirus.
- viii Parish Communications Officer** – Father James in discussion with Val Bowie, publicity photos for Diocese and other publications etc.
- ix. Pulpit not in use at St. Joseph** – sound has improved although visibility may be reduced.
12. **Date and locations of next meetings– 7.30pm start**
Thursday 11th June at OLR and Wednesday 16th September at St Joseph's