

ST BRENDAN'S PARISH FORUM MEETING No 13.

31st January 2011

PRESENT : Father M Cooke (Chair) [FrMC]
Tony Proctor (Secretary) [TP]
Catherine Bridge [CB]
Kath Brown [KB]
Peter Carolan [PC]
Martin Cleary [MC]
Frank Evans [FE]
Keith Hamilton [KH]
Stan Horrocks [SH]
Marie Kwiatkowski [MK]
Lisa Lamoury [LL]
Marie Lamoury [ML]
Michael Latham [MiL]
Barbara Pearl [BP]
Les Pearl [LP]
Rita Livesey [RL]
Julie McLoughlin [JM]
Chris Owen [CO]
Margaret O'Brien [MO'B]
Mavis Smith [MS]
Terry Smith [TS]
Teresa Taylor [TT]
Frank Vickers [FV]

Apologies Received

Kathleen Denton [KD]
Irene Sheridan [IS]
Barbara Owen [BO]
Sue Cleary [SC]
Tom Rabbit [TR]
Kathryn Wilkinson [KW]

<u>No</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
1.	<u>Introduction</u> FrMC opened the meeting and welcomed those present.	
2.	<u>Minutes of Meeting of 5th July 2010</u> The minutes were approved.	

<u>No</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
3.	<u>Matters Arising</u>	
	Item 8 – It was noted that the Harbour Room was being increasingly used & given such, there was no need for a further consultation exercise. If parishioners had suggestions for extending the room’s use, then Father Cooke or Tony Proctor should be consulted.	All to note
	Item 11 (c) – The problem of noise & chatter in church before Mass remained an issue.	All to note
4.	<u>Action Summary</u>	
	The Action Summary was reviewed and updated and is attached.	All to Note
5.	<u>Premises Update</u>	
	(a) <u>General</u> - TP reported that apart from some final snagging items, the most significant being the external notice board, work on the church was complete. The car park and future of the presbytery were the key issues to be addressed in 2011.	PPB
	(b) <u>Car Park</u> – TP acknowledged Forum members concerns about the extensive and often inconsiderate use of the church car park by some users. The recent severe weather had also caused the car park surface to deteriorate further with several potholes appearing. The meeting with the Head & Chair of Governors of the school had yet to take place. Estimates for remedial work from a local contractor had been invited.	TP
	(c) <u>Presbytery</u> - TP informed the meeting that a range of options had been considered by the Premises Project Board and submitted to the Diocese. The Diocese’s preferred option was for the presbytery to be let for residential use. This option was now being explored further.	PPB
6.	<u>Faith in the Future Consultation</u>	
	FrMC circulated a copy of a report which had been submitted to the Deanery on behalf of St Brendan’s and St John’s (following the consultation meetings held in early summer 2010) and a report from the Deanery Meeting of 8 July 2010.	All to note

<u>No</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p>A key outcome of the Deanery meeting going forward was the pressing need to encourage, develop and celebrate greater co-operation within and beyond parishes, as there would be fewer priests, serving more parishes. This theme was discussed further at Item 7 – ‘Sharing the Load’.</p>	All to note.
	<p>A discussion took place about the most appropriate and practical alignment of parishes locally. The consensus was as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In view of its large geographical area and parishioner population, St Osmund should remain as a discrete unit. • The parishes of St Brendan; St Columba and St John could reasonably operate as a cohesive & co-operative group. 	
	FrMC would feed back these views to the Deanery & Diocese.	FrMc
7.	<u>Sharing the Load</u>	
	<p>FrMC referred to the Deanery Pastoral letter of the 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time and the urgent need to consider how we all work together to fulfil the mission of the Church, given fewer priests.</p>	
	<p>Collaboration within, and between parishes, and continuity of mission would be key themes as we move forward. FrMC recognised and thanked those parishioners who already make a significant contribution to the running of the parish. However, it ought not to take ‘<i>a crisis of a shortage of clergy</i>’ to get other parishioners engaged. More parishioners would need to be willing to take ownership of, and responsibility for, appropriate activities, both spiritual and material, if the parish was to thrive and fulfil the Church’s mission.</p>	All to note
	Some of the key questions discussed included;	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Who in the Parish do we not connect well with? – and how do we improve that?’ • ‘How do we reach out to & engage with those parishioners who are not presently active in parish life?’ • ‘What tasks need to be done?’ – (Task Analysis needed). • ‘Who has the talents to best undertake those tasks?’ • ‘What is the best forum to approach these issues?’ (All present felt that within the Sunday Mass, with laity speaking about some of the issues was most preferable. This was felt important as this should not be seen as a matter for the clergy alone.) 	All to actively consider & feedback at future meeting

<u>No</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
8.	<p data-bbox="239 257 742 302"><u>Parish Finances and Fund Raising</u></p> <p data-bbox="239 336 1165 593">FrMC raised the need to fund the recently completed church building works which had cost about £200,000 and depleted the parish funds to £50,000. There was a need to fund the car park repairs, site security and some of the costs associated with the repairs to the presbytery. There was a need to replenish the parish reserve funds to meet the costs of ongoing maintenance and repairs also.</p> <p data-bbox="239 627 1165 739">The meeting concluded that whilst social events were good, they only raised limited income and so could never meet these demands.</p> <p data-bbox="239 772 1165 851">MiL made the point that all contributions should be made under Gift Aid to maximise returns.</p> <p data-bbox="239 884 1165 1041">It was agreed that specific fund raising initiatives were needed with clear financial targets and audiences, whereby those contributing could see clear outcomes & benefits, as well as perhaps some personal incentives for taking part.</p> <p data-bbox="287 1064 670 1108">(a) Car Park Funding Idea</p> <p data-bbox="239 1142 1165 1444">PC, SH and MK had an idea of a 'lottery', including '<i>sponsoring a car park square</i>' to meet the costs of the car park repairs. This had the potential to engage a wide range of car park users who rely upon its availability and serviceability, including parents at school; the playgroup / nursery; out of school care and parishioners. Such engagement and collaboration across a diverse section of parishioners supported the ethos of '<i>Sharing the Load</i>' and could hopefully raise much needed funds.</p> <p data-bbox="239 1467 1165 1545">It was agreed that once the cost estimates had been obtained PC, SH and MK would develop the proposal into a viable option.</p>	PC, SH, MK
9.	<p data-bbox="239 1579 446 1624"><u>Social Update</u></p> <p data-bbox="239 1657 1165 1848">TS gave an update on the success of the Christmas Concert & other highlights of 2010. The next planned event would be to celebrate St Patrick's day and be held on 18th March 2011 in the school. A further flower arranging demonstration would be planned before Easter.</p> <p data-bbox="239 1881 1165 1984">TS would welcome any new social committee members and looked forward to developing the parish social calendar further in 2011.</p>	All to note

<u>No</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
10.	<p><u>Lourdes Pilgrimage</u></p> <p>TS reported that he had received 15 expressions of interest to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes on 2 – 10 August 2011 and more information would follow in due course.</p>	TS
11.	<p><u>40 Years of St Brendan's Celebrations</u></p> <p>FrMC referred to the need to mark the 40th anniversary of the Parish and to consider whether a combined celebration with St John's (which is marking its 50th anniversary) would be supported. The Forum agreed that this would be appropriate and a target date of 16 – 18th September 2011 was agreed, as this would best ensure full participation of the school communities.</p>	All to Note FrMC
12.	<p><u>The Roman Missal 3rd Edition (New Translation)</u></p> <p>FrMc gave the background and rationale associated with the new translation. He also outlined the timetable for its introduction. The new translation offered an opportunity to reflect on our faith and the meaning of Mass, through a planned approach to catechesis.</p> <p>All present agreed that the catechesis would be most fitting and optimally achieved within the context of Sunday Mass, when the whole community was present. Whilst there was little support for separate 'general parish meetings', as it was felt that these would not be well attended, this did not preclude specific meetings to explore more deeply some of the associated issues.</p> <p>FrMC was awaiting more materials and would develop more detailed proposals in due course.</p>	All to note FrMC to develop proposals further.
13.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>(a) <u>Children's Liturgy</u> - It was noted that this was now operating well and thanks were recorded to those involved.</p> <p>(b) <u>Piety Stall</u> - Kath Brown gave a positive report.</p> <p>(c) <u>Youth Impact Group</u> – LL advised that the YIG was now re-established with the next meeting planned for 7PM on 16th February 2011 at St John's.</p>	
14.	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>To be advised in due course.</p>	All to note.