

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, New Malden
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Tuesday 12th December 2018

Present: Father Uche (President), Maureen Sampson, Sr. Margaret, Philip Cook, Lorraine Butler, Carmel Micallef, Deacon John-Simon, Declan Dixon, Felicity Surridge, Chinwe Azuh, Raphael Maurin

Apologies: Jan Downes, Pat Heery, Gemma Duncan, Agnes Vella, Wendy Wentworth

Opening Prayer: Father Uche opened the meeting with a prayer at 8.00 pm.

1. Maureen welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were given. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2. Matters Arising:

A youth worker, Joseph Kilsby, has been appointed to the parish. Interviews were carried out on Sunday 16th December. Matthew Cruickshank had emailed Joseph and offered him the post and he had accepted. Joseph will be working in the parish for 6 hours a week whilst he completes his studies. Raphael had been part of the interviewing panel. Maureen suggested that Joseph should be introduced to the parish at Mass when he takes up his post.

3. Parish Activity:

(i) **Parish Outreach:** Philip reported that the Evangelisation Committee had been working on a follow-up to "Adoremus". The committee felt that it is important to remind parishioners what is happening during the Mass. Could this be achieved during weekly meetings? Or could 10 minutes be added to the Mass? There might be a talk before Mass and then parishioners could experience it during the Mass. Alternatively Father Uche felt the homily could be structured on explanations of the Mass. A booklet may be purchased and handed out. Sr. Margaret felt that parishioners could be asked to make a small donation towards the cost. Philip encouraged members to listen to Bishop Robert Barron's talk on the Adoremus website.

(ii) **Marriage and Family Life:** A new course with 2 couples will begin in January.

(iii) **Deanery Matters:** Father Michael Lowell from St. Raphael's Church in Surbiton, is the new Dean of the Deanery. Father Uche has been elected as Deanery Representative to the Bishop's Council.

(iv) **Changing the time of Midnight Mass:** There were various suggestions as to how to gather the opinions of parishioners with regards bringing forward the time of Midnight Mass in future years. Father Uche felt that a survey could be carried out at this year's Mass. People would be asked to raise their hand for a yes/no vote. The proposal would be to have carols at 10.00, followed by Mass at 10.30. Maureen asked the committee if they agreed with this proposal and

everyone agreed. It was then decided to ask parishioners with views on this subject to email John-Simon.

(v) Parish emails: Deacon John-Simon distributed copies of parish email addresses, individual and group, that he had created.

4. **Reports:**

(i) Finance: As Wendy was unable to attend the meeting, she had forwarded her report to Maureen.

“The Finance committee last met on the 25th Sept. The accounts are up to date and in line with the budget. The Gift aid system, Giftwise-online, is now up and running and being used. It means we no longer have to connect to the Diocese server which was often problematic. We can also connect at home. We will now be paid in a more timely fashion and with lower administration costs. The Health and Safety inspection took place on the 6th November with Ron Henstock who will look into their suggestions. They always have some. The proposal for a youth worker was agreed. We next meet in February to review the annual report.

Myself, Fr Uche and Deacon John-Simon attended the first Diocesan Finance briefing with the Bishop and trustees. It is hoped that by the end of 2019 all parish finances will be streamlined in the Diocese with all parishes carrying out their accounts, feeding information directly to the Diocese. No more big Annual returns. Well that is the plan. We are following the Diocese recommendations for our energy supplier in the hope of reducing costs.”

(ii) Safeguarding: Father Uche suggested that Andrew Stables should be invited to the next meeting.

(iii) Fund Raising: The amount required to carry out essential repairs on the Technical School in Nigeria has already been raised thanks to the Advent Fayre, generous donations and 2nd collections. During his stay in Nigeria, Father Uche will identify the children who are to be sponsored, take photographs of the children and bring these back to give to the sponsors. Father said that the system of allocating money to the children needed to be fair and perhaps a ballot would be the answer. One aim was to eliminate the burden of school fees as children are sent home if fees are unpaid.

5. **Parish Infrastructure-repairs and projects**: Father Uche said that there was new LED lighting downstairs in the Pastoral Centre and new lighting was planned for upstairs. It had been an expensive outlay. An inspection had been carried out and there were no major concerns. Ron Henstock was thanked for his good work.

Felicity mentioned that at the 5.30 Mass there had been problems with the microphones. She wondered who was responsible for servicing the mixing desk. Would it be possible for the Sound Engineer in charge of the microphones or the Baptist Church sound Engineer to have a look.

6. **Parish Website Report**: There was no report as Pat Heery was ill and unable

to attend the meeting. Sister Margaret thought that a Youth section should be added to the website.

7. Calendar:

(i) Feedback on recent events: The Advent Fayre had been a great success raising over £1,783.

(ii) For the Home Lenten charity, Sister Margaret suggested the Caritas Bakhita House in London which she had recently visited. The Home provides help for women, aged between 17-63, escaping human trafficking. They offer a range of services including emergency support, legal and financial assistance, mentoring, and help with accessing accommodation.

Father Uche felt that the overseas charity should be St Peter and Paul Parish, Niger Delta. This is made up of a set of Mass Stations in a rural, riverine area which is in desperate need of a boat to enable the Parish Priest to access all these Mass stations. The money raised will go towards the purchase of this much needed form of transport.

Felicity suggested that people responded to an amount or goal.

(iii) Anne D'Silva had contacted "Just Youth" and they will be sending speakers to speak to the Confirmandi in the future. There will not be an invoice for this.

8. A.O.B.: Father Uche informed the committee that he would be away from 26th December to 1st February for his annual holiday. Father Christian will be covering the 10am Mass until the 2nd January when Father Joseph Luzindana arrives.

Father Uche told the PPC that on 23rd July 2019 he will be celebrating the Silver Jubilee of his Ordination.

Philip wondered whether there should be an AGM or Open Forum in 2019. The last AGM was in June 2017. It was felt that an Open Forum should take place after the Financial Committee had given their report and therefore after Easter would be a convenient time.

9. The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 19th March 2019.

Deacon John-Simon led the committee in the closing prayer.