

St. Marie's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of meeting held Monday 27th September 2017
In Cathedral House at 7:45pm

Present:

Niall Corroon
Leandro Martins
Fr. Christopher Posluszny
John Rodgers
Candida Calvert
Josip Korbar

Apologies:

Steve O'Hara
Moya O'Hara
Hugo Teruzzi
Eileen Maher

Opening Prayer: The opening prayer was supplied and read by Josip Korbar. The chair (Leandro Martins) warmly welcomed all PPC members and guests.

1. The Big Thank-You Party

This year's Big Thank-You Party is scheduled to take place on 18th November. This is now a well-established parish tradition, and an important way of the parish and PPC to thank the many volunteers of St. Marie's, whose work and service is invaluable to the life of the Cathedral.

In the past, these events have been arranged by the PPC compiling a list (mainly via a network of emails and phone numbers) and handing out card invitations to volunteers in person, at various masses. This system has worked well before, and it is the PPCs intention to replicate it this year.

The PPC are to produce invitations using the same card as the invites for previous parish socials, and use an updated version of last year's list to assemble the relevant contacts. We expect to be sending out 100-150 invitations in total.

To create an accurate updated list to involve all volunteers as much as possible, Leandro is to contact the leads for each parish group working in the Cathedral, and get them to provide appropriate additions. Other whole groups which need adding are the Rosary volunteers, and those who assisted in the Fatima celebrations this year.

Unfortunately, due to a clash of timetables, the confirmation catechists will not be attending.

Regarding the Big Thank-You mass itself, there was a note circulated by Josip Korbar that it would be a good idea to involve the music group from the 6:30pm Sunday mass in this celebration. The PPC were in agreement with this.

ACTION: Josip Korbar is to assemble volunteers.

There is to be a bulletin notice for the Big Thank-You Party from one month beforehand – Niall is to contact Mathew in the office to arrange this.

Invitations are to be designed and printed in plenty of time prior to the event itself – Leandro is to write the text of these.

This could be an opportunity to ensure volunteers (old and new) are invited to join the parish mailing list – invitations are to encourage people to RSVP to the PPC email.

The PPC is to produce a cake for the confirmation catechists in recognition of their service.

2. JX10/Sunday 6:30pm Mass

There have been some changes to the weekend masses, which have developed quickly due to unexpected circumstances.

Fr. Luciano has not returned to Sheffield. The PPC wishes him all the best in all his future endeavours.

This situation leaves St. Marie's and its associated parishes with a team of only two priests. An individual priest is not normally allowed to celebrate more than two masses on any given Sunday, which leaves the parishes with a normal deficit. On some weekends, it has been possible to arrange cover from other priests, but this arrangement is on an 'ad hoc' basis and not always reliable.

In recent years, the 6:30pm Sunday mass attendance has diminished and the 12:30pm mass attendance has increased in number. Coupled with current circumstances with the provision of a Chaplaincy at Sheffield Hallam University, it has been decided that this mass, whilst remaining a parish mass, is to be delivered by Fr. Lee Marshall who has recently been made chaplain of SHU, and the SHU community are to be present at this mass. This arrangement allows the 6:30pm mass to continue with the current availability of priests, and is currently on a trial period of three months. As well as having mass at 6:30pm, there is also to be confessions and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour beforehand, and a social gathering afterwards.

For this mass, the altar servers and eucharistic ministers are to stay the same. The music is to be provided by musicians from the SHU congregation; however there have been invitations sent to various members of the previous 6:30pm music group to form some collaboration. This situation was explained in a written report sent to PPC members by Josip Korbar prior to the meeting.

ACTION: To continue to trial period of 3 months – then cathedral staff are to review

3. Organ Restoration

Hugh Finnigan produced a report to the PPC prior to the meeting explaining the total profits from the fundraising work. The total amount raised so far is £10960.54, with a Gift Aid contribution of £974.04.

At the time of the meeting, Candida was preparing for the third parish tabletop sale. These have done well so far; with the first sale raising £286, the second sale raising £297, and the third raising £417. The last sale was compiled with various arts and crafts activities for children. A sale on 25th November is to have a theme of a Christmas market in its overall style.

Regarding future events, there are three parish social events planned. Currently there are many signed up, but all attendees are from the 10:30am Sunday mass – there is a need to expand the appeal to other masses as well. Hopefully the attendance at social events will snowball. Parishioners have been invited to suggest social events for the Autumn and Christmas periods – these have included events such as a Spanish night. The PPC are very happy for these to go ahead if there are enough willing volunteers to make these events happen.

Charity concerts are to go ahead, and there are also to be concerts taking place in other parishes.

The organ will be finished before Christmas, and then likely to be subjected to constant adjustments.

ACTION: Candida, Hugh Finnigan and Margaret Helliwell are currently working very hard with all of the above. Additional organisers from the parish are welcome to expand this service further and continue the good work carried out so far.

4. Fatima Celebrations

Audrey Lorion and Tricia Hall worked very hard to make this event a success – which it was. The PPC would like to thank the many parishioners who contributed to the success of this event – and these parishioners are planned to be invited to the Big Thank-You event.

The masses went very well, and feedback from the organisers of this national event was very positive towards St. Marie's. Following the event, the PPC formally recognised the contribution of all who made the event a success, and this was warmly received by the parish.

ACTION: As above – volunteers who were involved in the Fatima celebrations are to be invited to the Big Thank-You Party.

5. Fr. Chris Update

Most of the matters currently affecting the parish were already brought up in previous sections throughout the meeting.

An update from Hugo Teruzzi, who was unable to attend the meeting, was circulated via email to the PPC prior to the meeting. Hugo has been working on digital matters, including

the PPC email which has been moved from the GoDaddy server to the Google G-Suite. The website is also due to be moved to a new supplier by the end of the year.

Hugo is also involved in the parish Evangelisation Group. This has recently been renamed to 'Growing in Faith Together' (GIFT). The group intend on using the Engel scale of Evangelisation in order to ascertain the various attitudes amongst parishioners towards their own faith, and in what way they might share their experiences with others. A draft copy of this questionnaire was forwarded to the PPC, and members approved of it.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 23rd October at 7:45pm

Future meetings: Monday 27th November
Monday 8th January