

ST MARIE'S CATHEDRAL – PARISH A.G.M.

Held in the Houlden Hall after 10.30 Mass on

SUNDAY 21 January 2018

PRESENT Leandro Martins (Chair) Josip Korbar Eileen Maher (minutes) and 5 parishioners. Fr Chris stayed briefly.

APOLOGIES Niall Corroon, Candida Calvert and Hugo Terruzzi.

The **REPORT** – Focus of the PPC during 2017 was presented. (Copies of this to be made available online, notice boards and handed out)

The **PURPOSE** of the meeting is to discuss and plan pastoral elements and action in Parish life.

OPEN DISCUSSION followed led by the Chairman

1. The recent absence of the Sacristan (Jean) due to illness has shown how lacking we are in succession. Some of her jobs were covered by volunteers, others were not, as people were unsure what to do. This needs addressing.
2. Daytime stewards could be trained to help. This would need Jean to show people what and how to do things, eg setting the Altar for Exposition and Mass.
3. Collections were not taken at lunchtime Masses when Jean was absent, as no one was responsible for doing it. The amounts donated add up significantly.
4. There is a need to reinstate Gift Aid/Standing Order forms. People need to be made aware of the costs of running the Cathedral and be encouraged to contribute appropriately. Finance Committee to do this.
5. **SOCIAL EVENTS** – Table Top sales/Musical evening/Parish Social – had been more numerous than in previous years and had attracted a wider public.
6. **ORGAN LAUNCH** – the launch of the recently re-installed Lewis Organ is to be held on **THURSDAY 12 APRIL** and will be attended by the Lord Mayor, Bishop Ralph and various dignitaries. Several organists have been invited to play including the organist from Notre Dame Cathedral Paris. It will need the support of the PPC, parish and organ

enthusiasts. This will be a huge event in the life of the Cathedral parish. Details, posters, tickets etc to follow.

7. Revenue could be made by offering use of the organ to University and other bodies.
8. **HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND CO ORDINATOR** (Amy Baggeley) comes to the end of her contract in January. There is a meeting Friday 26 Jan in Houlden Hall 11.30 to discuss how we proceed after 3 years of HLF support, with Guided Tours, Exhibitions, Education and Volunteering. John Williams (HLF) Area Manager is expected to come to a 'snagging' meeting shortly, before the HLF work is signed off.
9. More members are needed for PPC. Currently there are only 6 members and Fr Chris. One member is leaving shortly.

HOWEVER – generally speaking things are better organised than they were several years ago and more events are happening. There is continuous improvement, but it needs more people to become involved in parish life.

10. Suggested that a member of PPC speaks at the end of Masses in order to update, enthuse and inform the congregation of their work. Possibly 3 times a year.
11. The website is mostly excellent, but could do with improved navigation.

AGREED that a short piece about the AGM be put in the Bulletin and that these Minutes go on the website/Notice Boards and copies are available for parishioners.

PPC TO DISCUSS AT NEXT MEETING MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY the following

- support for SVP
- availability of PPC information/updates
- finance Committee rep to confer with PPC re availability of Gift Aid forms etc.
- assist in supporting Organ Launch.

Overall-despite being a small meeting (and very inclement weather) there was much enthusiasm and many suggestions put forward. Thank you to all who attended.

