

ST BERNADINES PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8 December 2011

Fr Dan opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present: Fr Dan, John Lovelock, Margaret Vince (Chair), Vincent Calloway, Ron Cockayne, Clare Murray, Jayne Ochel,

1. **Apologies:**, Brian Deadman, Chris Kneafsey, Nick Mohan, Maggie Shinkwin.

2. **Matters arising from meeting of 3 November 2011**

Reminder that we need an appeal for new Council members in the newsletter.

3. **Father Dan's points:**

The Bishop has designated next Sunday "Together in Faith" Sunday, and a video about the success of the scheme will be shown after Mass, and handouts will be available.

New leaflets have been received for the Christmas Masses, to reflect the new wording of the liturgy.

Christmas Mass times will be published in the newsletter. Reconciliation services will be held on 19 and 21 December.

The building work at Brackley is finished and mass will resume at St Martin's on 18 December. Whilst using the Methodist Church, the Brackley parishioners have become used to the flexibility of having chairs instead of benches. They may decide to make a change to the seating at St Martin's in the future.

Fr Dan will be on holiday after Christmas. Arrangements will be needed to give the visiting priest access

4. **Reports**

Catechists– Maggie – not at meeting. Report sent later.

- The children in the Mary Group made their First Reconciliation on November 19th. It was a very beautiful service and the parents and children celebrated with tea and biscuits prepared by the Joseph group who had made their Reconciliation the previous week.
- The Children's Mass on the first Sunday of Advent, 27th November involved every child in every group. We are becoming more ambitious which is quite challenging for Fr. Dan but all went well!
- Our Nativity Play and Christmas Party happened last Saturday as the Parade means we cannot have classes. Parents are very generous and appreciative.

Children's liturgy

Fr. Dan called the children up to the altar and blessed them before sending them off to the library! This appears to be going very well. Vincent asked about funding for craft materials and was told to buy what he required.

Confirmation

Our first meeting with parents and candidates will be in the parish room on Sunday 15th January at 3.00pm

Youth group

The Children's Party will be on Sunday 18th December from 3.00-5.30pm

Papa Panov, their play, will happen in the New Year, probably in February at present rate of progress.

Churches Together

Arrangements are in hand with Caroline George of Well St to provide the hot drinks service for the participants in the Town Christmas parade.

Pastoral Area Council

At the recent meeting there were discussions about how each church has a different atmosphere, and about how to deal with "disruptive" families who are not accustomed to the traditional quietness expected during Mass.

The forthcoming Olympics will mean that there are likely to be many more visitors to the area and parishes should be prepared for this.

CAFOD report

• **Fundraising**

Deacon John is arranging for Christmas messages to be included from parishioners to parishioners in BEMA to raise money for CAFOD.

• **Schools**

Bishop Parker School

• The school requested that I give a presentation to the school based on CAFOD'S "World gifts" plan. This was done on Friday 25th November and was enthusiastically received by the pupils who have decided which gift they wish to give from each class.

- **Thornton school.**
A CAFOD Assembly presentation has been given at the school by Peter Van Cauwelaert. Discussions have taken place with the school on the best way we can help and the teaching staff are being given the opportunity to say what they would like from us.
Still trying to arrange further discussions based on the teachers requirements.
- **CONNECT2 ETHIOPIA**
The final contribution on "Buckingham" from the adult group is in its final stages. Interviews are taking place with farmers to get "real" background for this article which the people in Biera will be able to relate to. We hope to issue the package early in the new year. I will be discussing the project again with Frank at CAFOD and letting him have the parent consent forms for the childrens contribution.
- The display boards in the foyer need updating again.

5. **Health, Safety & Maintenance**

The electrician has rewired the lift and changed the socket in the crying room.

6. **Social / Fundraising Events.**

- Preparations are well in hand for the Christmas raffle on 18 December.
- Margaret has not yet made any enquiries about the cost of hiring a local school or village hall for a dance in the summer.
- John will arrange an evening for his "Introduction to Family History" probably late January /early February.
- Youth group play may be February. No date decided.

7. **BEMA / Parish Website**

BEMA will be ready in time for Christmas..

8. **New Parishioners**

None for many weeks. Perhaps another insert in the Newsletter?

9. **Parish Publicity**

Nothing to report.

10 **AOB**

11. **Date of next meeting:**

When Margaret gave apologies for the January meeting, those attending decided to bring the meeting forward so that she could be present.

The next meeting will take place on **Thursday 5 January** at 8:00pm

The meeting ended at 7.40pm with a closing prayer, and most members then went into the church for the Rotary Carol Service.