

WGC Catholic Churches' Advisory Council Meeting Minutes



St Bonaventure's



Our Lady's,
Queen of Apostles



Holy Family

Date:	Wednesday 15 th January 2020	Venue: Our Lady's Sacristy
Chaired by:	Father Norbert	
Present:	Fr. Tony, Ann Chappell, Anna Grogan, Kathryn Hubbard, Steve Allardice, Bill Hayes, Peter Vincent, John Beckett, Carol Beckett, Maria Vargas (minutes)	
Apologies:	Ellen Allardice, Jason Loh, Alan van Hek, Ernest Owusu-Afriyie	

1. Fr. Norbert opened the meeting at 7.30pm with a prayer.
2. Fr. Norbert welcomed all attending.

3. The Year of the Word

The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales has declared 2020 as a year of focus on the Bible, The Year of the Word. With this in mind Fr Tony is leading an eight week Bible study course "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible". It will cover the overall narrative history of the Bible. Some 40 parishioners have signed up for the course which begins on Thursday 23rd January and meets fortnightly thereafter until 30th April. After each session it is planned that a couple of paragraphs from the passages studied will be published in the newsletter with bullet points for reflection by all parishioners in order to promote a greater understanding of God's Word during this year.

Pope Francis has declared that the Sunday of the Word will be 26th January 2020, so at the Masses of 25th and 26th January there will be a special emphasis on the importance of Proclamation of the Word.

Other special events planned for this year include the arrival of the Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham at Westminster Cathedral from Thursday 19th March to Saturday 21st March. There will be special services including Stations of Our Lady of Walsingham.

On 29th March, the Feast of the Annunciation at 12 midday in Walsingham the bishops will rededicate England as the Dowry of Mary.

A suggestion was made to provide a course for readers at Mass, to help them to prepare in advance for this important ministry. There may be an opportunity to do this in the autumn about the time of recommissioning of Ministers.

4. New Parish Centre

Work on the new parish centre is going well and should be completed about June or July.

There was some discussion about the purpose of the new building, that it will be first and foremost a community centre providing a safe and suitable venue for a variety of groups and organisations within our community.

A manager will need to be appointed to run the centre attending to the day to day needs such as cleaning, maintenance, organising supplies etc. with the help of a committee of volunteers from within the Parish. It will be a primarily a Catholic church centre, but will be available to non-denominational groups such as Zumba, keep-fit, Peace Garden devotees and so on, when not needed for church events. We hope that the manager will encourage local groups to use the centre in the same way as the original Family Centre.

We also need to decide upon a name for the building, something which is inclusive while maintaining its' unique identity. One idea proposed was the Catholic Centenary Centre, but there will be time for other suggestions to be put forward.

WGC Catholic Churches' Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

5. Welcoming new parishioners

With the large number of new houses being built and the influx of new people to our area, the parish council was asked to consider ways to engage with new parishioners, to welcome them warmly and encourage them to integrate into our parish. First point of contact is often the welcomers at Sunday Masses and/or meeting the priest after Mass. It was suggested that a prayer card be produced which has the parish website address as a starting point, and perhaps a noticeboard at the back of the three churches with "information for those new to our parish". In the future, a welcome pack may be produced which would include information about activities which take place in our parish, the planned giving scheme for contributing to church funds, a standing order form and so on. Once the new parish centre is opened it will be possible to have regular meetings for people new to the area, perhaps once every 3 months.

6. Any other business

Taking Communion to sick and housebound parishioners.

There are several people who would like to receive Holy Communion in their homes if they are unable to get to Mass.

A suggestion was made that a record be kept of who will be receiving Holy Communion and on what date to improve accountability for this very important ministry.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Parish meeting will be **Wednesday 25th March 2020 at 7.30pm**

8. Closing Prayer

Fr. Norbert thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed at 8.30pm with a prayer lead by Fr Tony.

