

WGC Catholic Churches' Advisory Council Meeting Minutes



St Bonaventure's



Our Lady's,
Queen of Apostles



Holy Family

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| Date: | Tuesday 20 th November 2018 | Venue: Our Lady's Sacristy |
| Chaired by: | Father Norbert | |
| Present: | Fr. Tom, Anna Grogan, Kathryn Hubbard, Steve Allardice, Bill Hayes, Ernest Owusu-Afriyie, Peter Vincent, Marie Myers, Michael Cade, John Beckett, Carol Beckett, Maria Vargas (minutes) | |
| Apologies: | Ellen Allardice, Stuart Galloway | |

1. Fr. Norbert opened the meeting at 7.45pm with a prayer.
2. Fr. Norbert welcomed all attending.

3. Update on Parish Centre

Paulo Camoletto, the Diocesan Chief Operating Officer has asked that a business plan be put in place to anticipate different financial scenarios, to ensure that there will be money for the new build and additional funding to deal with any unexpected eventuality, such as a boiler breakdown. Rob Brand and Fr Norbert have prepared a report which will be presented to the Finance Board at today's meeting, (20th November). We are currently waiting for approval from the Diocese before we can put out to tender, to commence work.

A member of the committee enquired about the safety of the current, now closed family centre while we wait for work to begin. Fr. Norbert said that it is locked and secure, but because of Health and Safety issues could not be used, as there would be considerable expenses incurred to carry out fire proofing etc. which would not be cost effective.

4. One Canonical Parish – news

Fr. Norbert said that all three Welwyn Garden City churches, Our Lady's, Holy Family and St Bonaventure are informally already one parish with much communication between them, and parishioners attending all three churches and working together in various groups within the community. The proximity of the three churches lends itself easily to forming one parish, but as regards making this a formal arrangement in Church Law, there has been no progress yet.

5. Eucharist Congress follow-up

People who attended the Adoremus congress in Liverpool in September were inspired by what they learned and now wish to share the experience with the parish. Many ideas and suggestions were put forward to bring this to fruition.

Adoration in Church

There were some suggestions as to how to enhance the experience of being in church, the use of silence as part of adoration, services by candlelight, Benediction and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with guided prayer.

Formation of Ministers (Eucharistic, Readers, Welcomers, Servers)

Formation is the personal preparation offered to people to help them carry out their chosen ministries within the church. This could take the form of separate sessions for the various ministers to come together to consider their roles with the intention of enriching their understanding of the importance of what they do, and to share ideas amongst each other. In the case of readers there would be an opportunity to study a piece of scripture in context and share ideas of its interpretation and how to read it with the correct emphasis to bring the passage to life.

Children's Liturgy and Sacraments

There was some discussion about the need to involve parents too in helping their children to prepare for the Sacraments, and offering training to Liturgical Leaders. Ideas were discussed as to how to engage with young people

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post Confirmation, so that coming to Church remained a positive experience in their lives, perhaps by using music and singing more during the Mass.

Several people mentioned the impact that Bishop Barron's talks at Adoremus had made, one entitled "Holy Mass" and the other on "Holiness" and suggested that a part of the talks could be presented to parishioners with an opportunity to discuss them within the group and so deepen people's understanding of their Faith.

5. Promotion of Vocations in WGC

Fr. Norbert asked the council to think of ways to promote vocations to the priesthood. This is important for the future of the Church going forward in the next generation. There is a need to develop a rapport with young people in the parish to nurture the seeds of the idea of becoming a priest.

Some of the ideas put forward were regular Sunday Masses for Vocations, an invitation to seminarians to come to the parish to talk about their experiences, and for guest priests to talk about the richness of life as a priest, that it is not just about Sunday, but about so much more.

Critical stages in young people's development are Year 6, at A level and after University, and these are the times when they might be considering their future career path and when a nudge in a certain direction would provide food for thought.

A member suggested also that information should be made available for girls who might be considering becoming a nun, although their role is quite different from that of a priest.

Trips to Allen Hall or to Tyburn Convent might also be worth considering.

6. Proclaim

Cardinal Vincent Nichols wants us to think about Evangelisation, and spreading the Joy of the Gospel.

Auxiliary Bishop Paul McAleenan will be holding a meeting at Nicholas Breakspear School on Saturday, 16th February 2019 from 9.30am to 3pm about reaching out to the local community. It will be an opportunity to think of ways to engage with people who may not have considered coming to Church.

Examples of successful new initiatives in our parish are the formation of the Bereavement Support Group and the Transport to Mass schemes. 75 people attended the last Bereavement Group Memorial Service on 3rd November, and bereaved parishioners are offered continued support if and when needed. Some 200 people came to the Blessing of the Graves at the Lawn Cemetery.

The Transport to Mass Scheme is working well, with many parishioners benefitting from the offer of a lift to Mass when they would have difficulty getting there independently.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Parish meeting will be **Friday 1st February 2019 at 7.45pm**

8. Closing Prayer

Fr. Norbert thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed at 9.00pm with a prayer.

