

Minutes of St Michael's Parish Council Meeting, 6th December 2010

1. **Present:** Mgr Jim Overton, Godwin Pullicino (Chair), Anne Bulfin, Siobhan Edgar, Tom Farrell, Emanuel Gouveia, Clive De Souza (representing Les Cordery and Amy James).

Apologies: Betty O'Brien, Maggie Laurence, Maureen Meek, Adrian Pavia.

2. **Matters arising from meeting on 5th October 2010.** GP worked through the list of actions stemming from last Parish Council meeting to get an update on progress as follows:

- New Kneelers: Kneelers have been installed - **action taken**.
- Parish Links with Tanzania: Request for the teachers who are visiting Tanzania in February to find out what they need. This is required as a starting point – **action ongoing**.
- Use of Parish Hall: The income generated from the Hall bookings will have cleared the overdraft by the end of the year. Number of bookings has increased. Need to assess the value of the evening bookings in relation to the work they create – **action ongoing**.
- Welcomers: a meeting for Welcomers was held, but the response was poor. Sadly, it seems unlikely that Welcomers can be re-instated.
- Change in Parish population: groups are struggling to encourage new members, e.g. Ladies Circle, Flower Ladies, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, and Ministers for the Sick and Housebound. Parishioners attend Mass but are not committing to becoming involved. St Michael's School is finding that their parents are generous in their financial support, but are not committing to becoming involved.

3. **Minutes of last meeting (5th October 2010) agreed and signed.**

4. **Feedback.**

- The Parish Helpers Party was well attended and most enjoyable. It was suggested that the event is held every other year, to alternate with a Reception for New Parishioners. Such an event requires the support of the Parish Council.
- The Marian Discussion Group "*Hail Mary Full of Grace*" went very well with 20 people attending.

5. **Updates.**

a) **Pastoral** (CDS spoke on AJ's behalf).

First Holy Communion: 53 children have enrolled this year. The Sacrament will be celebrated over 2 Masses on 7th and 8th May. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated with several confessors in the same format as last year on Friday 18th February.

Confirmation: The Confirmation Mass will take place on 7th June 2011 for an anticipated 16/20 candidates.

Noise level at 9.30 Sunday Mass: It had been hoped to call a meeting for all Catechists to discuss this, but it has not taken place yet. **Action: AJ to organise meeting.**

b) **Finance** (CDS).

This year's accounts show a fall in parish income, but it also shows a fall in expenditure, and so the accounts are balanced.

A further collection to cover costs incurred for the Papal Visit is not proposed by the Bishops' Conference.

Clearance of Hall debt: the 2010 Hall Hire income will clear the outstanding Social Centre overdraft by the end of the year.

Expenditure for next year to be considered by Finance Committee: re-surfacing of church car park and the presbytery kitchen.

c) **School update** (AB).

KS1 have held their annual nativity plays. KS2 Carol Concert was held on 8th December 2010 in St Michael's Church.

d) **Parish update** (JO).

9.30 am Sunday Mass has been very much quieter over the past few weeks.

Heating – an ongoing saga. We need to address whether the capacity of the heating system is adequate so Hollywell, the plumbers, will revisit. **Action: LC looking into this.**

Crib: it will be erected for the weekend of 18/19th December.

6. **Parish Council article in St Michael's News** (GP). Parish Council members were asked to give feedback on GP's article and to make contributions to SMN.

7. **Young Adults and World Youth Day** (EG). The first meeting for young people was successful, but only 2 young people turned up for the second meeting. No-one attended the meeting scheduled and advertised for the 29th November. This lack of interest means that the Parish will not be represented at the World Youth Day in Madrid in 2011.

Representatives from SPEC and YAYA (Youth and Young Adults) have been invited to speak after Communion at all Masses during the weekend of 15th/16th January 2011. There will be activities in the Parish Hall after all Masses.

Contact details were given of the Youth Worker at St Lawrence's who has done this activity for a number of years. It is hoped to invite Fr Fernando Ventura (International Worker with Youth and Family) to speak at all the Masses one weekend. **Action: EG to keep JO informed.**

8. **London 2012.** The organisation "More Than Gold" is asking Churches and Communities to provide resources for athletes' families during the Olympics. A representative is happy to visit St Michael's to present the objectives for 2012. Concern was expressed about having too many events organised. Perhaps this may be more appropriate at Deanery level? **Action: JO to ask the next Deanery Meeting and report back.**

9. **Annual Parish Pilgrimage.** GP suggested that we alternate between UK and overseas annual pilgrimages. The Lourdes Pilgrimage is an annual event. We should look at how other parishes operate their pilgrimages. **Action: JO to gather information and pass on to GP; CDS to supply an article for St Michael's News.**

10. **AOB**

- *Homeless.* As a Parish what can we do to help the homeless? Give donations of food? Who is already working with the homeless in our area?
Action: TF to find out what services the Salvation Army provide for the homeless; JO to ask the Deanery for information.
- *Cleaner for Parish Hall.* Carmina Correia has been employed to clean the Parish Hall.

11. **The next meeting is on Tuesday, 1st March at 8.00 pm.**