



Holy Saviour R.C. Church
2 Vulcan Street
NELSON

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE PARISH CENTRE

11th October 2006

16 Members of the parish attended the meeting, chaired by Fr. Chris Gorton

Fr. Chris opened the meeting with a prayer, Apologies received from Lisa Stinchon

Minutes of the last meeting approved by Eileen and seconded by Marie

Fr. Chris reported that only two positive comments had been received from the Forum Leaflets:-

1. Asked for later Mass times during the week
2. Tea and coffee after Mass in the Annexe could be made more welcoming

Discussion followed regarding the Annexe and it was decided to try arranging the tables to give a more welcoming appearance and volunteers from the Parish would be at the entrance to "welcome" people, in particular new Parishioners. Fr. Chris will mention this at Sunday Masses and ask for volunteers.

Newsletter: - These could be monthly/two monthly/quarterly - with contributions from the school and parishioners - to be decided at a later date

It was also suggested that the weekly Bulletins could be in large print for the partially sighted.

Fr. reported that Sunday evening Mass will be with music every other week

A count of the congregation took place on Sunday 8th October and there were 208 people at morning Mass and 120 at the evening Mass. Counting will take place on several more Sundays.

Fr. Chris updated the meeting on the Welcome Signs - The new signs at the back and side of church will be lowered and coated with a special toughened surface.

The glass partition between the back porch of the church and the main church area will have the sign WELCOME on entry and GO IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST on exit.

The Taizé evening was a great success and will be repeated on the last Friday of every month. Many members of other parishes and denomination attended and hopefully this will continue and be extended. CD's are to be made available.

Sacramental Programme - the first has taken place and was very successful these will continue on the 1st Sunday of every month. Hopefully this will encourage people to attend church more regularly and not just on special occasions.

Parking - David reported that apparently the Council cannot do anything to help because the church is not on a main road. Disabled access can only be requested by the "Church" either in the newsletter/bulletin. Possibly a sign on the side of the church requesting several spaces to be left for disabled members of the congregation. This course of action to be explored.

Week-day Masses - When Fr. Chris is away arrangements for an alternative service was suggested. Fr. will have a meeting with the daily Mass goers to discuss possibilities.

Fr. reported on the filming of Mass for the housebound. There are several issues to consider

i.e. Data Protection, CRB, Child Protection

A possible short term solution is that an evening Mass for the sick and housebound, who would be invited to attend, could be filmed. All attending will have given their permission by attending in the knowledge that the Mass was being filmed - possibly once per month.

Maureen McDermott suggested that it could also be taped (audio)

Fr. reported that the Social Committee will be more involved with all activities where the Parish Centre could be utilised.

Census Forms:- Approximately 135 have been completed. At Mass on the 8th October 328 attended, Therefore it was obvious that many did not complete the forms. Possibly try again in a couple of months with an amended version which does not ask for expertise etc. This could possibly be the reason so few were completed.

Fr. is hoping to work towards allocating little jobs to everyone in the Parish. This is a "long term" project and obviously only those people who wish to be involved will be. This needs careful handling without pressure. It must a "choice" and people must have the opportunity to say "no".

Discussion followed regarding volunteers and how to recruit, Fr. suggested preparing leaflets, initially for the Eucharistic Ministers.

Advent suggestions:-

1. Exposition
2. Carols round the Tree, possibly 22nd December
3. Sunday 17th December the Children's Liturgy to do a special Nativity programme, also to involve the older children - possibly a Youth Choir
4. Tea and toast after Mass, one morning per week with proceeds to charity. To be publicised to other parishes
5. Day of reflection, possible on a Saturday in the afternoon.
Suggestion - invite Fr. Ashton
6. Pearl suggested visiting the housebound and sick to sing Carols
7. The Parish Christmas Social is to take place on 15th December
8. Elderly and housebound Mass, social and meal

Further discussion to follow

Fr. Chris asked for Feedback: - Barbara Martin said everything seemed to be working well, no adverse comments! The tables in the annexe can be re-arranged without any problem.

The Fair Trade Christmas Fair will take place on 10th December.

Any other business: - Sinead reported that although the Children's Liturgy was working well there were no "older" children attending. We need to think of ways to encouraging them.
Welcomers - Parish Mass books are "tatty" Fr. said that because of the possible change of Liturgy there was no point in getting new ones at this time. In the interim at the beginning of Advent the Mass will be printed on the back of the bulletins.

Date of next meeting: - 15 November 2006

Meeting closed at approximately 9 p.m.