

## **Minutes of the St Paul's Church Management Group Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021 via Zoom at 7pm.**

**Present:** Dave Evans (DE - Chairperson), Fr. Jeff (Fr. J), Fr. Leo (Fr. L), Deacon Barry Barton (BB), Bernard Doolin (BD), Keith Wells (KW), Paul Smye-Rumsby (PSR), Malcolm Fisher (MF), Mary Smye-Rumsby (MSR), and Jane Francis (JF – Minute taker). Fr. Jamie did try to attend but had communication problems with his broadband and was unable to participate in the meeting.

**Apologies:** Nil.

### **1. Introduction and Prayers.**

DE welcomed Fr. J and everyone to the meeting. Fr. J opened the meeting with prayers.

### **2. Fr. Jeff on his experiences and effects of his recent illness.**

Fr. J described how he was taken into hospital and what ensued. What he did discover while in hospital was that his perception of his prayer space had changed. That God did not seem so broad but took him to another level of his prayer space which made him focus on his lack of knowledge of the future as to whether or not he was going to live or die, and this made him look at going to Heaven or living on. As he told the Doctor that he still had much he wanted to do within the Parish, and this made him concentrate on thinking about Heaven, as well as the good he could do in the Parish and in particular in housing the homeless. He concluded by asking if anybody had any comments to make.

Fr. J left the meeting at this point due to the very busy day that he had dealt with and is still in the stages of recovering from his illness

### **3. St. Paul's Church Non-Political Anti-Racist Policy Statement.**

DE said this question arose over the anti-racist activities that occurred during the recent International Football matches. Anti-racism appears to re-surface from time to time and should our Parish put a notice in the newsletter condemning all forms of racism and abuse?

DE proposed the following:

*“Dear Parishioners, following the recent on-line hate and verbal abuse against our black footballers after England’s match against Italy and other abuse received by Black, Asian and other ethnic groups in our country, we at St. Paul’s, unequivocally condemn racism in all its forms. As Christians we stand firm in support of all people of colour and all ethnic groups/individuals in our Church.”*

BB enquired if this was going to be Parish wide and not just for St. Paul’s Church. Fr. L stated that he would prefer to leave it at the present time but perhaps a Social Action Committee mission could be set up to act on issues when they arise. BB said that it was an issue that

needed more homework done on it. DE to ask Fr. J to contact the Archbishop to see what he felt about the statement. MSR mentioned that there was an article on the Diocesan website.

PS: DE had a short meeting with Fr Leo on Friday (30<sup>th</sup> July) about forming a social justice group in the church around the Pope's encyclicals, in particular Laudato Si, re- environment and Fratelli Tutti- the latest one about justice. Fr. L's idea is to build up an awareness in the church around these encyclicals rather than the head-on approach of a direct message. DE has agreed to follow Fr. L's lead rather than by direct message or writing to the Bishop.

#### **4. Youth Ministry as Part of Evangelization**

Fr. L's first meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> July had 3 young people attend and this created a platform for them to have discussions. Fr. L said they had a lot of questions, and they now have someone to whom they can refer. They are very keen to participate in other activities. Fr. L said the next phase is to get the young adults interested. PSR enquired if it was possible to have certain Masses focus on the different groups, i.e., Youth Masses with hymns geared to the younger element. It was suggested that perhaps later on the young adults may be able to help the younger group. KW also mentioned that a member of St. Finbarr's was trying to set up a group to enact playlets with biblical themes.

#### **5. Parishioner Behaviour at Mass - Review – do we Welcome or do we Steward or do Both.**

DE reported that he had been informed of outrageous behaviour at weekday Masses by a lady shouting at people and also at Sunday Mass someone was seen drinking Gin or Vodka. The Stewards are still required as the Track and Trace is still in place. The Bishop has not sanctioned for the Holy Water Stoops to be refilled. It was mentioned that the incident of the person supposedly drinking Gin or Vodka was not drunk as it turned out to be water.

#### **6. Reports.**

##### Safeguarding.

KW stated that on the DBS forms, only 1 ministry can be entered. Should any volunteer carry out any other ministries not covered by the original one, a new form has to be completed for each of the different ministries they do. This was passed down from the Diocesan Safeguarding Office. Fr. L thanked KW and his team for all their hard work.

##### Altar Servers.

BD said that he had emailed St Stephen's Guild, but they could not find any record showing St. Paul's affiliation to the Guild. This may mean that the Parish Priest will have to contact the Archbishop to get a formal letter to obtain a Diploma.

##### CTID

BB was happy to report that the Sunshine Café was up and running and was doing very well. With regard to the First Holy Communicants the 2020 group had now completed their preparation. BB thanked Fr. L, Fr. J.H. and MF for their help as without it, it just would not have happened. The 2021 group will start in September and the children will leave the 0915hrs Mass at the beginning for instruction and then will return in time for the consecration. Should the rules change again re COVID19, the group will revert back to receiving instructions via Zoom.

**7. A.O.B.**

Fr. L mentioned that the seminar meeting re the book of Reflections by Fr .James Mallon could have up to 12 people and those members of the Management Group could join the seminar. Fr. L would lead along with Fr. J.H.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm via Zoom.

There being no further business the meeting closed at approximately 2055hrs.