

## St. Mary's Catholic Church, Wednesbury

### Parish in Council

Tuesday 10 October 2017

Father Paul welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Parish in Council since he had joined us as parish priest.

**1. Opening prayer**

**2. Apologies** - none were received

**3. Setting the vision** - Father said that he felt there was a warm welcome in the parish. He wanted to create a closer collaboration with our primary school and he will go in twice a week to say 'hello'. We have Children's Liturgy every 2 weeks, which enables parents to bring their children to church and learn how to conduct themselves in Mass. Unfortunately; some parents only attend on the weeks that there is Children's Liturgy. He believes that the newsletter is important for communication and wants to start catechism classes. The Madina School encourages Muslim children to attend for extra instruction, after going to school in the day. He hopes for the same commitment from our children and the priorities are:

- for those children who don't attend a catholic school and need instruction for First Confession and First Holy Communion; and
- for those in St. Mary's School who want to increase their learning.

He asked for questions. Theresa asked about Mass in school. Father said that he is talking to Gary about it; but it is important for children to attend the church. There are some logistical issues about doing this and Father will look at how this can be done, but they do need to attend on Holy Days of Obligation. There was some discussion about involving parents and possibly changing Mass time; although children do need to register first at school.

Pat asked about evening Mass, and Father said that he would keep Mass times as they are, for the time being.

Mike said that the parish website needs updating and intends to add the newsletters every week. He asked for any photos, school activities and notices to be sent in.

**4. Notes from the last meeting and matters arising -**

**5. The Ramp** - Fundraising is up to approx. £8,500. Father feels that the ramp is far too expensive and that we need to look at an alternative solution e.g. a temporary ramp, which may be a better option. There was discussion about the possibility of using a different entrance, like the sacristy, or have the approach from the other side of the main door, so there would be no need to blend the ramp in with the exterior of the church.

**It was agreed that Paul P would explore the potential of a temporary ramp and report back.**

**The Club** - Chris has now completed his lease and handed the keys in. The Managing Agents are coming tomorrow to check the state of the building. Chris had repaired the roof and left the grilles on the windows, as the club is a liability whist empty; but it is insured. Father said that he would like to find a new tenant who could have a 2-3 year lease and secure income. Anne asked about the hall and Father said that the two buildings needed to be considered as a package. There is a question about how sound the hall is and how long we may be able to use it, due to its condition.

Paul Agg said that it used to be hired out for £200, and Margaret replied that the hall had lost its licence and so could not be hired out anymore for functions. Currently the Madina School are using the hall and paying £660 a month. It is hoped that they will soon be able to return to their refurbished premises.

**The Feasibility Study**- has cost £964 so far and there is a meeting with the architects on Friday. A question was asked about what options had been put forward. Father said that one option was to sell off some land for development, but he is not happy with this. He asked what we needed funding for and the reply was to provide us with parish facilities (a hall).

#### **6. Calendar of fundraising -**

- Pot luck supper will be on Wednesday 13 December at 6:30 pm ;
- Christmas Fayre will be on Saturday 11 November at 12 noon.  
Raffle tickets need to go on sale and put a notice in newsletter to bring in donations;
- Gary plays in a brass band and they are doing a fundraiser on Friday 3 November at 7:30 pm, in church. Refreshments will be available in the hall in the interval. The cost is £5 per adult, free for children.

#### **7. Other matters -**

- Blessing of the graves on Saturday 4 November at 11 am;
- Remembrance Sunday will be on 12 November;
- Confirmation on 19 November at 10 am Mass;
- Christmas services will be 4pm for the children on Christmas Eve, then Mass at 7pm, and at 10am on Christmas Day;
- Polish 'Food Blessing' will be done at 12 noon on Christmas Eve (if required).

**8. Date of next meeting - Tuesday 16 January 2018 at 8pm. Now arranged for Friday 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.**