

St Gregory's Open Parish Meeting: 13/3/11

Attendance - 31 including Fr Jock, Chair- Anne Perry, Secretary - Jacinta Flockhart
Apologies: Ellen Salvona & Sister Margaret Service

Meeting opened with Jacinta reading 2nd Sunday in Lent's Gospel, after which Fr Jock took us on a guided meditation.

Previous Minutes: No matters arising.

Minutes approved : Aileen Charleston and Marie Jones.

A REPORT FROM THE PARISH TEAM ON WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING From October to March

- A pastoral council member will chair each of the 3 open meetings each year.
- Welcome and thank-you meal for the Pastoral Council Group
- The Faith Journey - Meetings saw discussion about the Papal visit and a presentation by Bishop Maurice Taylor regarding the new translation of the Mass.
- Advent went well considering adverse weather. Christmas Eve Mass was very well attended with hall being full also. Those who used the hall were happy they still felt part of the celebration.
- Music Groups came together to plan the music for Advent.
- Bereavement Masses and Service very well attended during November.
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - Tuesdays after Mass 10-10.30 (or if it's a Communion Service - 9.45-10.15am) - has been well received.
- The 'Do This in Memory' sacramental programme continues.
- The Parish Welcome and Information booklet has been given out - amendments will be made to it.
- Welcomers at funerals provide a particular support. Welcome information cards to the surrounding guest houses have proved a useful resource with one guest house having the information to hand that was necessary for one of their visitors in an emergency.
- The Women's Guild is thriving with new members of all ages from the surrounding community not just the parish. They hosted the Children's Christmas Party with 26 under 10's receiving a gift. The over 10's outing had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions - 14 children received a £15.00 voucher and selection box.
- SVDP work continues with visits to the housebound, the members attending the annual conference and a very successful afternoon meal for the housebound with Catherine Homan & Martin Lynch providing an entertaining sing along.
- Spred has 5 Catechists active from our parish. Mary Macauley summarised its mission.
- The Syro-Malabar Community continue to use St Gregory's for their monthly Mass. Also, the hall is booked for classes to teach the youngsters traditional dance; and for family celebrations.
- The Soup Kitchen group for Jericho House is up and running. Nicola Heatlie is the contact person and is always looking for volunteers to join one Wednesday in Five.
- Cluster activities include a walking group, Fair-trade stalls and recently a Burns night.
- Saturday evening Mass has a presence of faith, a welcoming community celebration a feeling of belonging.
- Sisters Jeanette and Christine are now part of the Chaplaincy for Holy Rood High School with Fr Jock saying a weekly Mass in Lent.
- Peter continues to photo-copy away. **(Many thanks to him).**

Any Questions? - None

What's planned for the months ahead?

- Lent is underway. Holy Week - a new initiative on the Monday: a Passover Meal/Washing of feet with the churches coming together. Stations on Friday evening will be in St Gregory's as will a Children's Mass on Easter Sunday morning. We are encouraged as a cluster to be open to celebrating services in whichever parish they are held.
- Reconciliation for the Primary 3 Children will be on Monday 14th March at 7pm with a celebration to follow...parishioners are encouraged to join the children and their families
- Cluster Reconciliation - 5th Sunday of Lent.
- Bereavement Service for the cluster is planned to be held in St Gregory's 13th April 7.00pm.
- Sisters Jeanette and Christine have kindly offered to host two reflection evenings during Lent. It is hoped they will provide spiritual refreshment, supporting people on their faith journeys. They will review and reflect after Lent if people would like more.
- The Music Groups who enhance our liturgies (and to whom we are very grateful) have been invited to a planning evening on 30th March to organise the music during the second half of Lent.
- A Eucharistic Ministers' Training Course will take place in May.
- In the absence of a social committee, parish and cluster events will be co-ordinated by volunteers when necessary. A St Patrick's Night Social will be held 18th March.
- The Indo-Scottish Evening should take place at the end of May Fr Jock will contact Fr Sebastian.
- Summer Fare will take place on the 11th June.
- A Financial Presentation will be made at the end of a Vigil Mass in Lent.

Questions - None

Grounds

Tommy Spence, who oversees our garden, spoke about the possibilities for the spare piece of ground.

- Allotments would need too much planning etc.
- Car boot sales are a more viable possibility.

Group discussions on suggestion.

- Good idea, what permission would be needed? Jeanette Mulgrew will make enquiries.
- A letter would have to go out to nearby residents regarding suggestion.
- 3 month trial period to see what effect it would have on grounds.
- Suggestion 3 people having shared responsibility of smooth running each time.
- Safety issues, toilet facilities.
- Public liability for the church? Maureen Wallbanks will feedback.
- Food stall manned by St Gregory's only. Again what permission required?
- Suggested Charge: £7.00 per car
- Mats not viable for cars travelling over.

A Small group was set up to meet and take the initiative forward - Tommy, Jeanette, Hazel, Eileen, Aileen. **Thank-you to Tommy Spence for his help and advice, and all his hard work.**

Questions from the floor

Regarding the introduction of the new translation to be introduced in September.

Fr Jock had only received the first official documentation from the diocese on the subject and as yet had had no time to reflect personally on it. Concern was felt that people did not know enough to make an informed decision on whether the new translation should be used or not and what choices as a community we might have. Maybe an explanation from the altar was needed. Will we have time to register our disapproval if it is due for introduction in September?

Fr Jock explained that the cluster through the Faith Journey had been given the opportunity to explore what information they had. He had also given a presentation at the last Open Parish Meeting on his understanding of what the changes would be and why they would be happening.

At the last Faith Journey Bishop Maurice Taylor gave an account of how the changes have come about and where to access the rejected translations. It was suggested that it was worth reading his book 'It's the Eucharist - Thank God' which gives an account of how the changes have come about.

The Pastoral Councils from the cluster would look over a letter in the process of being drafted by Fr Mike.

It was felt that Mass was not the place for this discussion.

It was also thought that further discussions could possibly continue during an upcoming Faith Journey meeting where people would have the opportunity to discuss the issues surrounding the new translation..

Any Other Business

Fabric

Windows were in need of painting. Kevin Ford has kindly offered to do this.

Heating concerns: heating not working to full and economical capacity.

Some parishioners were angry that the diocese had put in place an incompetent contractor and now we as a parish had additional expense to put poor workmanship right.

Brendan Gilhooley, who had replaced the original contractor, would be approached for advice as to how to rectify the problems.

Date of next meeting: Sunday 26th June 2011 at 7.00pm

Followed by Cheese and Wine