

St. Thomas More Church, Hartley Wintney

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 6th November 2008

Present:

Geoff Jennings (chairman), Fr Dominic Adeiza, Deacon Dave Morgan, Janine Kilroy, Marian Sandle, Anne Stanley, Rosemarie Cooke, Pat Paul, June Walsh, Carole Johnson, Margaret Jennings, John Marcotti (minutes)

Apologies:

Paula Simcoe, Viviane Faye

1. *First Holy Communion Programme*

The programme is structured as two 'streams' – one for the children and one for their parents. As such, it will involve the parents as well as the children. Children and parents will occasionally do readings, bidding prayers, offertory processions, etc – the idea being to get them involved in the Mass. A meeting has already been held with some of the parents.

Typically, the children's meeting will be in the sacristy, the parents' in the church.

We discussed the children's seating arrangements in the sacristy. Carole will ask Chris Wilkins for the loan of a table and some chairs.

The 28th June 2009 has been identified as a possible date for the First Holy Communion ceremony.

We discussed costs associated with this programme, such as heating the church and providing stationery and course books. We decided to ask the parents to contribute £10 per child towards costs. Deacon Dave will propose this to them at one of the parents' meetings.

Father Dominic asked for people to volunteer to deputise in case one of the regular catechists might be unable to do certain sessions e.g. because of illness. As long as the session is supervised by one of our regular catechists, perhaps one of the parents could stand in.

As she is running the children's sessions, it was agreed that Rosemarie should hold a key to the church.

2. *Holy Souls*

Fr Dominic will bless the graves in Hartley Wintney cemetery on 23rd November at 2 pm. Carole will ask the parish council and the vicar for permission.

Fr Dominic proposed the use of envelopes into which parishioners could write the names of their deceased loved ones. The envelopes would be placed in front of the altar during November and prayers said for the people named. At the end of the month the envelopes would be burned. We all agreed this was a good idea and decided we would adopt it.

3. *Bidding prayers*

There was a suggestion that some parishioners might feel shy or nervous about speaking up during the bidding prayers, and a proposal that we could therefore adopt a system where in such cases they could write their intention on a piece of paper to be read out at the appropriate time by the second reader. We discussed this but concluded that the process was complex logistically.

Instead, we decided to hang a notice board near the votive candles, people can write down their prayers and pin them up on the board.

4. *Special meeting*

The Parish Pastoral Council and various other groups at St Swithun's will hold a display after mass to explain their work to parishioners. We have been invited to possibly get some ideas for our own parish.

5. *Advent*

Carole will lead a series of reflections – probably lasting about ½ hour - on Sunday afternoons during Advent, starting on the second Sunday.

6. *Reconciliation service*

Fr Dominic will lead a Reconciliation service at St Thomas More on 10th December at 7:30pm.

Geoff will check if we can park at the school.

7. *Catholic Children's Society*

We will have a collection of toys as usual. We have been asked to concentrate especially on gifts for teenagers, such as gift tokens or cosmetics.

Pat Paul will announce the collections at Mass on 23rd November.

A representative of CCS will visit us on 14th December to receive our gifts.

8. *Christmas*

Mass will be at 7.00 pm on Christmas Eve. There will be no Mass at St Thomas More on Christmas Day.

Our Christmas tree has been arranged through Hook as usual.

Nicky Stevens will hang some lights on the tree, and the children will do the rest. The tree will come on 23rd December.

9. *Christmas social*

This will be held at the Cricket Club on 6th December.

We will ask people to indicate if they plan to attend (for catering purposes). We'll ask Nicky if she would organise it.

10. *Finance*

Geoff presented the accounts for the year up to 31st August 2008.

Jonathan Plumtree is currently our Gift Aid coordinator, but for personal reasons is unable to continue in this role. As yet, nobody has volunteered to take over, possibly because of a lack of understanding about what the role entails. We will ask Jonathan to explain at Mass one day.

11. *Bulletin*

June has volunteered to take over from Anne as producer of the weekly bulletin.

Fr Dominic would like to take this opportunity to revise the format, and June will discuss it with Carole Williams (who produces the bulletin for St Swithun's).

12. *Other matters*

12.1 *Sacristy*

Dcn Dave suggested that Fr Tony at Cove might be able to provide us with a tea urn.

12.2 *Hymns*

We have been in the practice of omitting some verses from long hymns. We used to do this with Fr Chris and Fr Danny from Hook, because they had to get back to Hook in time for another Mass. Similarly, we have until now been doing it with Fr Dominic, who has to get back to Yately. We asked Fr Dominic whether we should continue in this way, or whether we should sing all the verses. Fr Dominic said we should continue to omit some verses if the hymns are long.

12.3 *CRB*

Volunteers are requested for the role of CRB Officer for the parish. We will ask Yately's CRB Officer to find out what is involved.

12.4 *Next meeting*

The next meeting will be on 23rd January.