**The Roman Catholic Parish of Ss. Peter & Michael**

 **Woolston in the Warrington and Widnes Deanery** 

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council**

**Monday 4th December 2023 at 7.00pm**

**Present**:

J M (Chair for Meeting); Fr. M D; M F (Secretary); T H; G A; T O; J W; G T; C W; T W (Treasurer); K L; V M; M H 1; M H 2

 **1 Welcome and Opening Prayer**

J M welcomed everyone to the meeting, followed by the opening prayer.

 **2 Apologies**

J L G; C G; R H; J J G; P D; T F

 **3 Chair Introduction and Matters Arising From Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting of the Parish Council held on 6th November 2023 was accepted by the Parish Council. There were no matters arising except those featured on the agenda.

 **4 Liturgy**

J M said that weekend Mass attendances in November 2023 were an average of 134 parishioners attending Mass, up 5% on October 2023 but down 3.3% on November 2022. J M said the attendances were only about 65% of pre Covid-19 levels. J M said that the fall off in the Mass attendances was similar to that seen in the archdiocese and countrywide.

At the next Parish Council Meeting J M said he would review this year’s Mass attendances on a month by month basis with the attendances in 2022.

J M said there were two new altar servers, J H and R C.

Fr M D said that with immediate effect the Great Amen and Prayer for Peace would only be said by the priest with responses to be said by parishioners in accordance with the liturgy, unlike at present where the parishioners were joining in the prayers.

The Parish Council confirmed that the Christmas decorations and crib could be put up after 11am Mass on Sunday, 17th December 2023.

After Christmas Eve Masses this year, Fr. M D suggested that parishioners could be offered a drink and mince pie as they left the church. The Parish Council agreed this was a good idea and would arrange for the distribution of the refreshments at these Masses.

C W said that the new Piety Stall had been very successful and had generated a lot of interest with takings up considerably on previous years. C W had also arranged to purchase a rotary card holder to help with displaying the stock. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

The Liverpool Archdiocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes next year will be from 19th July to 26th July.

 **5 Progress with ‘Reaching Out’**

Fr. M D said that parishioners who are feeling lonely and would like to meet up for a social event could be invited to a coffee morning or a lunch of soup and a sandwich at the Church. Fr M D said that the Eucharistic Ministers could be asked to collect the names of those interested on their visits and the initiative can also be publicised on the church website and in the church bulletin.

Further details could then be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council on 8th January 2024 as an agenda item.

 **6 AOB**

 Church Maintenance

T H said that he had taken the plans to modernise the existing kitchen in the church house to the dean, Fr. D H, these provide a new private dining area for Fr. M D. The sum quoted to do the work including new white goods is £8,675.

Fr. D H said he would back the project for the work to proceed as quoted. T H would speak to the kitchen company who quoted for the work and hoped that they could commence work early in the New Year as soon as the preliminary work of removing the old kitchen units had been completed.

Confirmations

Fr. M D asked for details about the 2024 Confirmation Programme. M H 1 said that the parish usually write to all the previous year’s Year 6 pupils at St. Peter’s primary school to remind them to register online if they wished to be confirmed next year. Animate Youth run the Confirmation Programme. Fr. D H holds updates on the Confirmations at the Deanery meetings.

Cakes on the Lawn

M H 1 said that this year’s cakes on the lawn after Sunday Mass raised £675 for the church to send to charitable organisations.

Winter Wonderland

The Parish Council were advised that the Winter Wonderland event was a great success with around 100 people attending and the event raised over £800 towards the Lourdes appeal here at St. Peter’s and this year’s toy appeal which is trying to achieve over 12,000 Santa sacks for families who are in desperate need this year.

**7 Date of Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Millennium Room on Monday, 8th January 2024 at 7.00pm. The Agenda will be circulated before the meeting.

**8 Close**

The meeting closed at 8.10pm with a prayer led by Fr. M D.