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

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

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

**Monday 15th January 2024 at 7.00pm**

**Present**:

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

**1 Welcome and Opening Prayer**

J L G welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the opening prayer.

**2 Apologies**

None

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

The minutes from the meeting of the Parish Council held on 4th December 2023 was accepted by the Parish Council with the amendment that the offer of a drink and mince pie after Mass was for after the Christmas Eve morning Mass and not all Masses on Christmas Eve. There were no matters arising except those featured on the agenda.

**4 Liturgy**

J M said that weekend Mass attendances in December 2023 were an average of 137 parishioners attending Mass, up 2.3% on November 2023 and up 4.3% on December 2022. J M said that the attendance at Christmas Masses totalled 264 which were 5.2% up on last year.

J M said he had reviewed the Mass attendances in 2023 compared to 2022 and was pleased to report that the Mass attendance figures for the whole year were up 4.8% year on year.

J M also said that Fr. M D would now hear Confession and hold a service of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament before the Wednesday Evening Mass.

Fr. M D said he had received a letter from the Legion of Mary asking if the parish was interested in holding a Legion of Mary PPC between May and August 2024. The Parish Council agreed this was a great idea and would discuss this matter in more detail at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Fr. M D also said that he was considering the purchase of ‘Hymnal Plus’ to help with the provision of music at Mass. The Parish Council agreed to consider this matter at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council also agree to have the Children’s Liturgy as an agenda item at the next meeting.

**5 Progress on ‘Reaching Out’**

Progress on ‘Reaching Out’ in the parish had been slow to date because of the parish’s preparations for Christmas. The Parish Council agreed that the best method of ‘reaching out’ to parishioners was by the church bulletin and parish website. V M was also asked to look into if the St Peter’s School’s Facebook page could also be used. Eucharistic Ministers on their visits could also mention the initiative when handing out the church bulletin.

The weekly tea and toast after Sunday Mass could be ‘open door’ and T F was asked to prepare a poster/flyer to promote this. This could be displayed widely such as at the local library and in shops in the parish. M H 1 had already prepared a new tea and toast rota to 5th May 2024 and would e-mail this out to all on the rota.

The Parish Council agreed to keep this matter as an agenda item for the next meeting of the Parish Council to check on progress.

**6 The Synodal Deanery Council**

M H 2 presented an update on the work of the Synodal Deanery Council of which she is the parish representative. M H 2 explained how the deanery was addressing the six points of the Pastoral Plan which resulted from discussions at the recent Synod of our Archdiocese and launched on 28 November 2021.

In response to the six points the deanery had already supported a day on accompaniment; new ministries and employing lay pastoral workers in the Archdiocese; the organisational structure of the deanery of Warrington and Widnes was being reviewed; advertisements had been placed for a youth worker and there was a plan for a youth Synodal Council; ideas for support for the priests in the deanery would also be welcomed.

M H 2 said progress on the implementation of the plan has been slow with no end date to this process. Fr. M D added that it was inevitable that going forward parishes have to consider pooling resources and Fr. M D mentioned this could apply to assistance with the Parish’s Sacramental Programme and Marriage Preparation group. Fr. M D said synodality was about co-responsibility and listening to each individual as a member of the church. So far the deanery had organised one joint event – the Christingle Service at St. Benedict’s.

**7 The Parish Trip to Lourdes 2024**

The Liverpool Archdiocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes will be from 19th July 2024 to 26th July 2024.

G A said he had put a poster up at the back of church requesting the parishioners interesting in going to put their names forward. The cost this year based on a similar basis to 2023 is £999. The Youth pilgrimage is also open for applications from young people from Year 10 up to the age of 22 and a cost of £700.

G A is going to post information of our parish trip to Lourdes to the dean, Fr. D H and other parishes in the deanery to publicise the trip and hopefully increase the numbers interested in going on the pilgrimage.

**8 Lourdes Fund**

The usual practice is for the parents to raise the funds for the youth going on the Archdiocese coach. Coach number 6 is for the youth from parishes in Warrington. The parish Lourdes Fund was as a top up to funds already raised by the individual going.

The Parish Council agreed that if there is a request for financial help from an individual this would be a decision for Fr. M D to consider in conjunction with the chair and members of the Parish Council.

**9 AOB**

Church Maintenance

T H said that the work to modernise the existing kitchen in the church house would commence on 5th February 2024 and last about a week. The preparatory works would therefore take place on 2nd to 4th February 2024.

**10 Date of Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Millennium Room on Monday, 12th February 2024 at 7.00pm. The Agenda will be circulated before the meeting.

**11 Close**

The meeting closed at 8.30pm with a prayer led by J M.