

Parish Forum Meeting: Thursday 26th February 2009

The meeting was opened by Father John who introduced a reading from St Paul's letter to the Christians of Rome (1: 16-17), this was followed by reflection and discussion by the group.

Tim McHugh (Chair) introduced the agenda and invited further agenda items.

1. Icon: the Icon design has been approved by the Diocese Arts and Architecture committee and the Finance committee, it awaits final approval by the Archbishop. It is hoped that inauguration of the icon may coincide with Confirmations in June 2010.
2. Crucifix: a major concern of the Parish was the relocation of the Crucifix currently above the high altar. Nicola Hix has kindly agreed to draw up proposals for its relocation to a position of prominence on the altar.
3. Maintenance Group: Paul Mason reported on changes in safety regulations that will require the recruitment of a Fire Wardens for services, particularly the busy services (eg Midnight mass, 10.30 on Sundays and Good Friday) when the Church is full. It was agreed that a small working group would be formed and volunteers requested from the Parish.

Fr John recorded his thanks to the Maintenance Group (Paul Mason, Nicola Hix, James Lyons and Andrew Roberts), it was suggested that Robert Piggott should be invited to join this group (Robert supervises Hall bookings). Fr John proposed that it would be helpful to identify individuals who could be available to attend to emergency maintenance needs, either by supervising workmen or attending to minor works themselves. Volunteers will be requested via the Parish bulletin.

4. Parish Directory: Michael Jones reported that thanks to Sharon Perthill the directory is now formatted and edited, quotations for printing had been requested. The aim is to have the directory ready for Easter Tide. For the next edition we may seek advertising support to meet the costs.
5. Justice & Peace Group: although there will be no Family Fast day lunch this year, the J&P Group are planning a fish supper to accompany a presentation by Fr Dushan Croos SJ on the DVD 'A Life of Christ' for 20th March.

There is a cake sale planned to raise funds for our twin parish in Peru and the J&P Group propose to make all Peruvian saint days by asking that mass is dedicated to the parish in Lima and its needs.

6. Altar servers: we have an enthusiastic group of servers but there is a need to organise them to ensure all key services are covered and also

some training is required. Charles Uttley and Tim McHugh have agreed to provide some training, once a month for 15 – 20 min at 10 am prior to Sunday mass. Other volunteers to help train would be welcomed. Keith, who serves at 8.30 am mass, would be pleased to provide 'on the job' training should any servers wish to join him.

7. Anointing of the Sick: we have had anointing of the sick at 5.30 mass on occasion in the past. Although well attended a little more organised support was needed for the service to fulfil its potential. Fr John would like to be able to offer this sacrament twice a year and this will require help with transport, identification of interested parishioners and a suitable welcome when people arrive at Church. There was agreement that this initiative should be taken up, perhaps the SVP could help organise.

This led to a discussion about commissioning of Special Ministers to take the Eucharist to those who can not attend mass. This was also met with approval.

8. Special Ministers: there is a meeting of the Special Ministers planned for the near future.
9. Quiz night: Alicia Holliday reported that the quiz night had been a great success, with approximately 60 people attending and raising £560 for the De Paul Trust. A further quiz is planned for the future.
10. Christmas Party: Frances Bartholomew recorded thanks to Spike and Michael Jones for sterling work in serving 60 people and 15 helpers at an excellent event. Frances also thank the young people who had helped with great enthusiasm and have already expressed an interest in helping next year. There was a short discussion on the organisation for this years event.
11. Events for lent 2009: Fr John noted that for a variety of reasons evening events are not well attended in this Parish. The following events / services have been organised for this year:
 - 'Home is a Holy Place' DVDs and discussion 1st March and 22nd March
 - 'A life of Christ' DVD and discussion with Fr Croos 20th March
 - Stations of the Cross after 9.30 am mass
 - Penitential Service to be arranged before or during Holy Week
12. Child Protection team: Ann Stephenson is handing this role over and there will be a meeting on 16th March.
13. Proposal for discussion / speakers: it was suggested that we could arrange a series of outside 'experts' to speak or lead discussion sessions. It is proposed that a suggestions box is set up at the back of the Church to receive ideas of speakers or subjects that may be

attractive. It was noted that to ensure a good attendance we should advertise and actively encourage attendance from other Parishes.

14. Progress following previous meetings: Tim McHugh noted that there had been several successes in the last year which should be noted:

- Saturday vigil mass: the new time of 6 o'clock has been well received and numbers of attendees had increased.
- The young persons mass has now become a regular event on the first Saturday of the month and is well supported.
- A number of volunteers have come forward to assist with the 10.30 mass Childrens liturgy and this has eased the commitment for the team.

There was no other business and so Fr John closed the meeting with an prayer and a blessing.

The next meeting will be in May / June 2009.