

St Anne Line Catholic Church

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 12th February 2024 – 7.40pm – Parish Hall

Attendees:

Patrick Shiel – Chairperson

Robert Kirby

Fr Barto

Jacinta Balchin – Minute Secretary

Paddy Frew,

Greg Eglin

Tina Marrai

Noreen

Damian O'Connor

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies: Rev Alan
3. Minutes of last meeting held on Tuesday 7th November 2023 were noted and agreed subject to the comments below:

Point 4aii. Expenditure has increased by c£8,000 to £47,000 (rather than £12,000 as previously stated)

Point 4fviii. Consecration of the church could be considered in 2026 – celebrating 60 years of the church (rather than in 2025 as previously stated)

4. Matters arising are covered in the committee reports below
 - a. Finance - A detailed review of the accounts for the 9 months to 5th January 2024 was circulated and Paddy provided a brief summary of the main points.
 - i. For the 9 months there was a total surplus of £129,361.
 - ii. Without the legacy received in 2023, the general fund would have had a deficit for the same period of £13,057. Largely due to the cost of unexpected repairs during that time.
 - iii. Since the last report and review, only real change has been the cost of the emergency repair works in the presbytery of £7,218. This was a mammoth piece of work at a very busy time, and it was made much easier with the help in the community.
 - iv. Connected to these works, there is also a £3,000 bill from the diocese for the building survey to be paid.
 - v. A question was raised around handling money from fundraising events and payments to the Parish bank account from personal bank accounts. Paddy explained that this was in response to some auditor queries and understanding what was currently occurring. It was agreed that the current process should not be changed for the time being.

The Finance Committee would check if there was any specific guidance the Parish needed to follow for this process.

Patrick will follow up the action point with Rev Alan about the sum-up machines to help with collecting money at Parish events

- vi. A question was raised about what interest rate, if any, the Parish was getting on the legacy money at this time. It was confirmed that it was currently with a diocesan deposit account.

Paddy agreed to provide further details.

Further to the meeting, Paddy circulated an e-mail on 14/2/2024

The diocese has provided the following information regarding our deposit:

1: Terms of investment:- this is an intra-diocesan deposit. Monies are available to the parish when required and interest is payable at a blended rate.

2: Yes- when monies are required for expenditure- these can be moved immediately.

However if there was a capital project and large sums payable (e.g. over £50k, we would request some notice in order that we can ensure that the funds are available when required.

3: Risk is no different to cash held on the current account. Monies are held at HSBC.

4: Interest is at a blended rate. We are managing the cash requirements on a day-to-day basis investing cash on immediate and longer-term deposit and intra-diocesan loans. The rate paid is dependent on where cash is held at any given point in time. Throughout the month cash requirements change centrally. As an example- we pay salaries for the entire Diocese centrally and recharge these. Monies are collected from parishes close to 5th day of each month, so parish expenditure is having to be funded centrally for a period. Therefore cash requirements do change throughout the month. The interest allocated to parishes is based on the average rate attained on the total deposits, also taking into account any interest charged to parishes which have loans with the Diocese.

- b. Youth Update – Jacinta provided a brief update.
 - i. In late November, the group delivered over 2,000 Christmas cards to the local community and supported the Parish at the Christmas Bazaar. A Christmas Craft session was held for all the Young people in the Parish making decorations and baking.
 - ii. The year started with a confirmation session in early January and a visit to the Redbridge Food Bank over the weekend with Damian assisting.
 - The majority of the group were able to attend, and all came with donations of food.
 - The number of donations has rapidly diminished, and the Food Bank team are now using financial donations to stock up on food for the weekly family boxes. At the same time, the number of clients has risen sharply and is putting a strain on all resources.
 - The Food Bank have secured a new warehouse, where they could manage resources more efficiently but need support.

It was agreed that the Youth Group run an extra coffee morning next month for the Parish as a fundraiser for Redbridge Food Bank as part of their Lenten action.

- iii. The group will have a second visit to the food bank to take any donations collected from the Parish and to support the team after the Easter break.
 - iv. The group will be assisting with the weekly Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings during lent.
 - v. In mid-March, the group will deliver c1,500 Easter cards to the local community as part of their Confirmation Programme activity.
 - vi. Social events are on hold at the moment as a number of the group have GCSEs this year and busy revising for mocks.
- c. Fr Barto provided a brief update to the Council.
- i. Mass attendance continues to improve. The average on a Sunday is now 250 compared to 230 in 2022. Christmas 2023 recorded 503 attendees compared to 403 the previous Christmas
 - ii. The Advent appeal for the friars raised more than £1,300.
 - iii. Christmas was a very busy time, especially with the disarray and works in the presbytery but the Parish support was very much appreciated as always.
 - iv. The Young Adults Group led by Andres and Juliette is going well and they have another event planned in March.

Jacinta to send Patrick a contact e-mail to invite Andres to the next Parish Council meeting

- v. Lectio Divina is progressing and will move to Friday after mass as there are more people attending mass on that day.
- vi. In total, the Parish raised £21,806 for the Huruma orphanage. A great effort from all.
- vii. The Parish celebration on the feast St Anne line last week was a great event and something to do again next year. It was suggested that next time we have some flags as well. Tina will source these.
- viii. The consecration of the church in 2026 will also be a highlight for the church and Fr Barto has started plans for this. Whilst in Peru, he has been gifted a relic of St. Narcisa de Jesús, an Ecuadorian Saint for the altar.
- ix. There will be a coffee morning for St Patricks day and the Quiz on 15th March.

Tina to check with Joan and Alan if they will be doing this

- x. The FRA report has been carried out in the church and it was suggested that the Parish consider introducing electric votive candles. The Parish Council did not agree to a change at this time.

Patrick to check location of candle stands and any hanging fabric or curtains as a follow up to the discussion on this.

- d. Catechesis
 - i. Fr Barto confirmed that there would be 2 RCIA members making their confirmation with the Parish group in May.
 - ii. A question was raised about the number of Eucharistic ministers at the 11am mass on Sundays and the need for better representation of the Parish. This is to be monitored for the time being.
 - iii. The Council discussed the re-statement of the Children's liturgy and mass

It was agreed that contact would be made to a few known parishioners that may have knowledge of the content previously used and arrange a discussion to get this started back up again. In particular, parents of primary school children that may be open to run it with their children attending.

- e. Parish Social – Tina provided an update, it is busy as usual
 - i. Current plans include a bingo in Feb and quiz in March followed by a table top sale after the morning masses in April
 - ii. A suggestion for cheese and wine to accompany the Laudato Sí discussion planned for w/c 12th May. This is a meeting to raise awareness of the Diocesan action and what the Parish can do. All would be welcome, including families.

It was agreed that any Parish action needed to be a coordinated effort involving the whole Parish and this meeting would be an opportunity for a parish-wide conversation. Fr Barto suggested that possibly this could be an area of collaboration with the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, further to the refreshed parish partnership talks. Fr Barto to progress these talks with Fr Martin at OLoL.

- iii. Tina proposed a Murder Mystery evening with a casino theme for June, followed by the Parish summer BBQ in July, bingo again in September and quiz in October.
- iv. For Christmas, the bazaar would take place as before in November but also the parish would be organising a Nativity play, followed by mince pies and mulled wine. This would involve all the youth groups in the Parish. The weekend of the 21/22nd December has been pencilled in.

Tina will approach Jo O'Connor who works at St Anthony's for some additional support.

- v. Tina raised the question about music licenses and copyright for events in the hall.

Jacinta agreed to speak with Anne about what was currently in place and whether we needed anything further for future events.

- f. Buildings maintenance Health and safety – Damian provided an update
 - i. Footbath near presbytery has been tidied up further to the works on the wall. The next steps will be to add a nice shrub to finish off the work in this area.
 - ii. Gutters and Roof have been cleared
 - iii. There has been slow progress with the car park quotes.

Fr Barto to provide the remaining 3rd quote to Damian to make a comparison and progress these works.

- iv. A family architect known to the Parish is to visit the presbytery over the next month and draw up some ideas and suggestions on the extension options and use of space. Fr Barto to have a think about the space ahead of this visit.
- v. The FRA review for the church has been completed
- vi. All the paperwork and options relating to the purchase of a parish defibrillator have now been obtained and a decision now needs to be made and the location to be confirmed. The Council discussed that it should be accessible by members of the public as it would be noted on a register and would need to be accessible at all times.
- vii. Works on the raised planters could now begin just needed to decide on the location.

The Parish Council agreed that the planters could go at the front of the church to create a memorial garden for Tony.

- viii. The Council discussed the pricing for some signage at the front of the church. Similar to the blue wooden sign previously used was mentioned.

Patrick agreed to look into this as it was thought that prices had been previously obtained by the office for this.

- ix. The Council discussed the recent works in the presbytery and the structural integrity of the 2 houses.

It was agreed that a structural survey should be carried out for Number 8 as a priority to highlight any structural issue that may need works in the short to medium term.

Damian would also speak with the architect on this and would source the diocesan survey carried out on the presbytery before Christmas.

- g. SVP
 - i. Noreen confirmed that support was provided predominantly from referrals and ongoing individual visits.
 - ii. Further to a question about its status, Noreen confirmed that the St Anne Line SVP adult conference had been transferred to the conference at St Thomas of Canterbury given the low demand in the local area.

h. Justice & Peace

- i. Greg confirmed that the Parish would be set up to send Christmas cards out to prisoners of conscience in December 2024.
- ii. It was confirmed that the Fairtrade stall would be set up to start at the coffee morning in March and also possibly at the table top sale on 14 April.

AOB

- The transparency of the Parish Council and general awareness in the Parish was discussed again following a recent query.
 - It was agreed that an abridged version of the minutes would be made available on the Parish Website given the confidential and sensitive nature of some of the matters discussed.
 - It was agreed that roles and names would be put on Website to raise awareness of the members of the Council.
 - It was suggested that a Parish Council representative could be present at the monthly coffee mornings for parishioners to raise any concerns or questions which could then be raised at the next meeting.

5. Concluding Prayer

6. Dates for next meetings – 4th June 2024 at 7.40pm

Meeting concluded at 22:06