

## St Vincent's Parish Council

*"The parish council works with the priest to serve the people"*

### Meeting minutes 19 June 2024

**Present:** Russell Brynes (Chair), Catherine Evans, Louise Heaton, Cath Livingston, Maria Mawson (Minutes), Lizanne Rana, Dominic Rice, Theresa Rice, Dominic Simon.

#### 1. Opening prayer

#### 2. Apologies: Fr Walsh

#### 3. Actions & matters arising from the 22 May meeting not covered by the agenda

- Diocesan statistical analysis. A deanery meeting was scheduled for 18 June. Agreed to ask Fr. Walsh for updates at the next meeting. **Action: MM for agenda**
- Disability questionnaire. This has been circulated via parish and diocesan channels. No information yet on responses. Agreed that CL will draft a reminder for the bulletin. **Action: CL**
- New Lectionary. RB reported that there has been some coverage about this in the Catholic press, mainly around the cost of some editions.

#### 4. The Mass

First Holy Communion.

The First Holy Communion Mass took place on 2 June. Many family members and friends attended, and the church was very full. Some parishioners have subsequently expressed concern about inappropriate and disrespectful behaviour by some people during the Mass, such as taking photos and videos and constantly talking. One of the welcomers was spoken to rudely when trying to address this.

Although there may not have been any intention of disrespect, it was agreed that in the future, clear and firm guidance about inappropriate behaviour during the Mass for parents, families and guests should be built into the preparation process. Fr. Walsh had spoken about behaviour at the beginning of the Mass, additional guidance could also be given during the service. Having notices about the use of mobile phones in church could also be helpful, and would serve as a useful reminder to everybody to switch phones to silent in church.

The meeting also raised the question of holding a separate First Holy Communion Mass.

**Action: Fr. Walsh and those involved in preparation to consider further.**

#### 5. The Church

Deacons – no updates

Year of Prayer and Jubilee updates.

- Two responses had been received so far to the call for ideas, with a variety of useful feedback and suggestions, including more use of technology and visual media in church to assist prayer, local retreats and pilgrimages, more worship outside in nature, and the provision of simple family prayers.

CL and CE have done some work on things that could be actioned fairly easily. Jacquie Stacey is willing to lead a novena to St Joseph and it was agreed that this could be arranged for July. Another parishioner has volunteered to look into organising a parish retreat locally in Sheffield. Praying the Rosary in the church garden will be organised during September. suggestion for family prayers on an A4 sheet that could be printed and put up in the home. Members of the group agreed to work together on a collection a family prayers that could be made available to print in poster format. It was also suggested that a

prayer for the YoP/Jubilee could be said at Mass every week. **Action: CL and other members of the group.**

- Parish representative to attend the Adoremus event on Saturday 14th September to support preparations for the Jubilee. **Action: Awaiting update from Fr Walsh**

#### Website accessibility

LH has spoken to one of her contacts for advice, and RB has been sent a link to RNIB information about web site accessibility. It was agreed that it could be useful to employ somebody to review the web site with a view to making it more accessible. **Action: Fr Walsh to consider further.**

#### Physical accessibility in church

A parishioner with visual impairment has spoken to CL about accessibility in church, and has agreed to make suggestions for potential improvements. CL mentioned an accessibility questionnaire/audit that could be completed to help the parish assess where improvements could be made. It was also agreed that CL's role relating to disability and inclusion in the parish should be promoted more widely. **Action: CL to prepare information for the bulletin.**

### 6. Building the Community

Parish social - International Food event.

It had been hoped that this could be held as part of the presentation of the Live Simply award, but as this will be taking place after Sunday morning Mass (date to be confirmed but proposed for 22 September) the timing would not be appropriate. The International Food Event will be arranged for a separate date, and it was agreed that late afternoon into early evening would be the most appropriate time. There was some discussion about making this a ticketed event to provide some certainty on numbers, and about advance funding to enable people to buy food if necessary. This could be discussed with Fr. Walsh. It was also suggested that people attending the event could be asked to leave a donation for the food they consume. **Action: CL agreed to discuss further and look at dates with Fr Walsh.**

#### Kitchen - notices & guidelines for use

It has been noted that some hall users have been leaving food and other items in the kitchen, including tea and coffee that are not Fairtrade products.

It was agreed at the last meeting that further guidance should be given to those booking the hall and using the kitchen. TR s brought an example of a poster from another parish that explains the Fairtrade policy and asks people to use the supplies provided instead of bring their own. TR suggested that if the parish provided tea, coffee and sugar for use by everybody, this would simplify matters, and hall and kitchen users could be asked to leave a donation to help cover the cost. **Action: TR to take forward with Fr. Walsh**

### 7. Parish Council

Terms of Reference

DR was thanked for drafting an updated version. The meeting approved the new version, with the addition of the Parish Council mission statement. It was agreed that the guidelines for periods of service should flexible, not mandatory. **Action: DR to finalise and send to Fr. Walsh for the website.**

### 8. Children and young people

No items for discussion

## **9. Live Simply updates**

No items for discussion

## **10. Safeguarding**

No items for discussion

## **11. Any other business**

Social Committee

A parishioner had asked about having a social committee, particularly with older parishioners in mind. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would not take this forward, but if possible would support any parishioners wanting to organise a group or events.

Parish meeting.

The annual full parish meeting has taken place in September in the past few years.

**Action: RB will speak to Fr. Walsh about potential dates.**

### **Dates for next meetings**

4 September. 7pm. DS gave his apologies in advance.