

# CHURCHES OF THE FOREST OF DEAN

Our Lady of The Victories Cinderford  
St. Margaret Mary Coleford and Sedbury  
St. Joseph's Lydney

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL DATED 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2024

### 1. Attendance

**Present:** Pip Deave, Peter Chisholm, Paul Dekkers, Brian & Dot Lord; Fiona Mills, Sarah Perkins, Dorota Rapacz, Ruth Wood, Noel Riossi

### 2. Apologies:

Phillip King

### 3. Minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and accepted.

#### Matters Arising

It was reported to the Council that the Parish Picnic dates will need to change slightly with the alternative 'bad weather' date moving from 22<sup>nd</sup> June to 29<sup>th</sup> June. Accordingly, the proposed dates are now 15<sup>th</sup> June with the backup date of 29<sup>th</sup> of June in case of inclement weather.

### 4. Feedback on Recent Services and Future Plans.

#### Attendances

The Council noted with pleasure that attendance at most Masses remains steady although such is dependent upon several factors not least prevailing weather conditions.

St. Margaret Mary Coleford is averaging 25 to 30 parishioners although there are relatively few younger people in the congregation.

Cinderford remains at around 25 to 30 parishioners but is dependent upon attendees from the transient Filipino community.

Lydney continues to go from strength to strength with a healthy congregation.

### Hymns at Mass

The Council was advised that the sacred music currently played during Mass at St. Joseph's Lydney does not reproduce terribly well on the Live Streaming platform the problem being a lack of a direct audio feed. It was agreed that one of the spare microphones from Our Lady of the Victories Cinderford should be taken to Lydney and set up in such a manner as to provide better musical sound reproduction. The matter will be placed in hand as soon as possible.

### First Holy Communion

The date for First Holy Communion to take place is confirmed as Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024 (Corpus Christi) to take place at St. Joseph's Lydney.

### Live Streaming

A proposal was put to the Council for it to sanction the purchase of an additional mobile camera to enhance the existing Live Stream facility for parish Masses. The intention was to facilitate the use of different camera angles and close-up shots in order to enrich viewer experience. Following discussion the Council came to the view that such would run the risk of becoming a distraction to the focus of the Mass and also embarrass parishioners who might feel self-conscious at appearing on camera in close-up mode. The Council resolved accordingly not to adopt the proposal.

### Bishop MacDonald

Clifton Diocese is to have a new Bishop (Bishop John Bosco MacDonald). His ordination is due to take place on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in Clifton Cathedral and the Diocese has plans to Live Stream his enthronement. The Council proposes to broadcast this Live Stream in Coleford Parish Hall. Details have already appeared in the Parish Newsletter (and will continue to do so for the next couple of weeks). Parishioners wishing to attend are asked, where possible, to provide a plate of food for sharing at a small celebration to be held post-enthronement.

## **5. Spiritual Update**

### Lenten Reflections

The Council was informed that the Lenten Reflections went very well. There were not many people in attendance at these sessions but that was not entirely a bad thing since it had enabled high quality discussions to be held.

### Easter Reconciliation Service

It was reported that the Reconciliation Service at Our Lady of the Victories Cinderford had been very well attended and was made more special by the accompanying Invoking Of The Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands which had been well received by those present.

### Pentecostal Novena

The Council was advised that there is to be a Novena for Pentecost organised. Details will appear shortly in the Parish Newsletter.

### Baptisms

The Council was pleased to note that there have been two recent Baptisms in the Parish with a further two planned in the coming months.

### World Day Of Prayer

The Parish celebration of the 2025 World Day of Prayer will be held at St. Josephs Lydney. Further details will follow nearer the time.

## **6. Financial Update**

There were no major financial updates to report.

## **7. Buildings Update**

### Coleford

It was reported that although Coleford Parish Hall had supposedly been linked by cable to the main office Internet Router the extender unit refused for an unknown reason to recognise this connection and was still seeking to establish a connection via a Wi-Fi link. This was inconvenient and the matter was being investigated as a matter of urgency.

A quotation had now been received for necessary repainting work at St Margaret Mary in Coleford to deal with the issue of heat staining to walls above the radiators. The quote was for painting two walls and would include the fitting of deflectors to take rising heat away from the wall surface. The repainting would be carried out using washable paint so as to make it possible to wash the walls from time to time should any further

staining occur. There was some debate as to whether the Council was able to authorise this work in the absence of a Parish Priest but ultimately the Council resolved to do so on the basis that it had a duty to protect the fabric of parish churches generally. The Dean would be informed of the Council's plan to authorise the work.

A quotation had also been received for works to be carried out to the canopy over the Presbytery at St. Margaret Mary. The Council was content that this work had previously been authorised by Father Frank Wainwright and so could proceed.

## **8. Volunteers Updates**

It was drawn to the attention of the Council that the Parish St. Vincent De Paul Group was currently in limbo. The President, Secretary and Treasurer of the SVP all wished to stand down and there were no readily available replacements. A meeting was due to be held in May to discuss the way forward but it had to be acknowledged that SVP was struggling at present with membership. A volunteer for the post of President had emerged and will be confirmed at the next SVP meeting – probably in May 2024. It was hoped that SVP Area Representatives would be in attendance at that meeting to lend support, and new members will again be sought. Sadly there was unlikely to be an early resumption of large-scale SVP activities.

## **9. Social Update**

The Council was informed that there was now an urgent need for work to begin upon organising the Parish Fete if it is to take place as per usual on the second Saturday in September. The most pressing problem is that of finding a willing volunteer to co-ordinate individual contributions. After some discussion the Council agreed that a post-Mass appeal should be made to parishioners across all Parish churches in coming weeks in an effort to attract volunteers. Hopefully sufficient volunteers would come forward to enable some progress to be made and a natural leader/co-ordinator would emerge from a volunteer group.

## **10. Safeguarding Update**

### Safeguarding Leaflets

Safeguarding leaflets were in the process of being distributed around the Parish to those required to receive the same. Progress in the matter would be updated at the next Council meeting.

### Safeguarding Policy

There has been a significant change to the Safeguarding Policy at the Diocesan level. Further details will appear in the Parish Newsletter.

## **11. AOB**

### Visiting Priests

The Council was pleased to note that letters had been sent recently to the Vicar General and to the Dean thanking them for their assistance in organising visiting priest cover to the Parish and that these letters had been copied to the Bishop.

The Council was also pleased to note that the Parish presently has visiting priest cover organised up to and including 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**There being no other business the meeting concluded at 1720 hours.**

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 1630 hours in Coleford Church Hall High Nash Coleford**

(Zoom connection available)