

# CHURCHES OF THE FOREST OF DEAN

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

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL DATED 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024 3pm

### 1. Attendance

**Present:** MQ, PC, BDL, FM, DR, SP

### 2. Apologies: PD, RW, NR

### 3. Minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and accepted.

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

#### Mass Attendances

Attendance at Coleford Mass was affected during the recent storms and floods with some parishioners unable to get from their respective outlying villages to Coleford. Lydney and Cinderford did not seem to similarly affected.

### 5. Spiritual Update

#### Minutes of the Spiritual Group Meeting

FM reported that the Minutes of the latest meeting from this Group had been sent out and posted in each of our churches. There were no significant changes to report since that meeting.

#### Readers Day

Attendance was good at this event held on 30 November at St. Margaret Mary where many of our parish readers were introduced to the new Lectionary and educated in the 'best practices' of reading.

#### Advent Retreat at Bownshill Monastery

This event is fully booked.

### Wedding of Partick and Jessica

This event proceeded well and was live-streamed.

### Jubilee Events

MQ reported that the Diocese will be holding several mini-Jubilee events during 2025 which will be announced in due course. PC reported that he and his wife will be joining a small group of people from the St. Wulstan Pastoral area on a pilgrimage from Worcester Cathedral to Clifton Cathedral in May 2025.

### Christmas Masses

Timings for Christmas Masses have been announced and published in the Newsletter, Website and FaceBook page. FM reported that the children in St. Joseph's will have their Christmas party on 23 December and the Christmas tree will be decorated that day.

### Re-Visitation of Mass Timings within the Parish

Some discussion took place on this subject. MQ informed the Council that he will be keeping Mass times at weekends exactly the same as they are currently; i.e. OLOV 6pm Saturday Vigil, SMM 9am Sunday, SJ 11am Sunday, OLOL 11am Sunday. The support he currently gets from St. Peter's, Gloucester allows the three parishes to have four Masses at a weekend and he alternates himself between OLOL and SJ. If he was to lose the support of St. Peter's then he will then be forced to make different arrangements for Mass times and he will address that if the time comes.

### Reconciliation Service

Post meeting note: This Service has been arranged for Saturday 21 December at 3.30pm at Our Lady of Victories church and has been announced in the Newsletter, etc.

## **6. Safeguarding Update**

### Safeguarding

Safeguarding update for four people in the parish was in hand.

## **7. Volunteer Updates**

### Eucharistic Ministers

One more person receiving instruction. The Eucharistic Minister situation at Our Lady of Victories remains the same.

## **8. Social Update**

### St. Vincent de Paul Fun Bingo.

The first event was held on 6<sup>th</sup> December and was well received by those attending. Some changes to format and times were being looked at by the SVP group.

### Christmas Quiz

Due to lack of available time by potential organisers, this event will not take place. The SVP group may include some quiz element in the next bingo event.

### Friday Lunch Club

This group had 40 diners at their Christmas lunch held at the Bell's Hotel, Coleford.

### Christmas Lunch

Unfortunately, there had been no uptake for the Christmas Lunch event with many of the potential attendees already making arrangements elsewhere and therefore it has been cancelled. Next year the SVP group will be looking to kick off the event earlier in the year.

## **9. Financial Update**

The team are working on the Year End report.

There is an outstanding issue on an Electricity Bill which is being resolved with the Diocese.

## **10. Building Update**

SMM kitchen: leak has been fixed and new cabinets were going to be fitted by a carpenter from Lydney church.

The toilet and baby changing facilities at SJ requires improvement and the Fabric and Finance Committee has been tasked with addressing this situation and to make a costed proposal for the PPC to review.

## **11. Any Other Business**

### Psalm Music Books

MQ informed the PPC that he had purchased a set of books for this purpose. When they are received he will meet with SJ's organist to review and determine if more books are required.

### PPC Member for OLOV

No change.

### Charge/Credit Card Readers

Fabric & Finance Committee will revisit this topic and determine whether it is viable for our parishes and will report back to the PPC.

Frequency of PPC Meetings

MQ believes that our PPC meets too frequently and reported that OLOL had now changed to quarterly meetings. He suggested that we change our meetings to a 2-monthly schedule.

**There being no further business the meeting concluded at 1615 hours.**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 at 3.00 pm (in Coleford Church Hall High Nash Coleford)**

(Zoom connection available)