

PPC Minutes

Churches of Forest of Dean

Our Lady of Victories Cinderford, Margaret Mary's Coleford,
St Joseph's Lydney

Minutes of Meeting of the Pastoral Council Wednesday 8 November 2023

2.30pm in Coleford

Present: Pip Deave Chair, Dorothy and Brian Lord, Sarah Perkins, Peter Chisholm, Ruth Wood, Dorota Rapacz, Noel Rossi (via Zoom), Paul Dekkers

Apologies: Fiona Mills, Phil King

1. Welcome

The meeting opened with a prayer lead by Pip Deave.

2. Minutes last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting on 4th October were accepted.

3. Mass times during Father Frank's absence.

Confirmation that Fr Frank is no longer our parish priest had been received in a letter to all parishioners from the Bishop and an email from Fr Frank himself. A replacement is being sought by the Bishop. In the interim priest cover for weekend masses is being provided by Gloucester Deanery priests and Diocesan supply priests. Deacon Paul is attending a Deanery Clergy meeting on the 10th of November and will ask if we can get a better forward view of weekend mass cover. Paul will also submit our preferred 4th week of Advent/Christmas mass times for The Forest, which following some discussions were agreed as 4th Sunday of Advent 6pm Vigil Cinderford, 9am Coleford but no 11am Lydney mass. Preferred Christmas mass times were Lydney 6pm Vigil (Sunday), 9am? Coleford, 10.30am? Cinderford. Pip agreed to do a letter of thanks from the PPC to Fr Frank

4. Spiritual Updates

The Parish pre-Advent retreat at Brownhill monastery had been well received by those who attended with good feedback. Paul will request

that the Deanery priests support us with a reconciliation service before Christmas (post meeting note this was subsequently agreed at the Deanery clergy meeting)

5. Financial Update

Brian Lord advised there was nothing to report financially.

6. Buildings updates

Brian reported that the insurance repairs to St Joseph's had been completed. There was an outstanding issue being followed up with the Diocese regarding the costs for the safety surveys of the utility meters.

The work by Glevum to replace the front door and various windows at Coleford was well underway but not yet completed.

Peter requested that work is done to sort out deflectors/shelves above the heaters in St Margaret Mary church.

It was reported a problem had been experienced by one of the supply priests with no heating or hot water in the presbytery on a Sunday morning. It was agreed we would investigate being able to install remote controls similar to the church.

7. Social updates.

Peter reported that the Quiz Night had been very successful, people really enjoyed it and £340 had been raised. He suggested that the money should be donated to one of the smaller local charities, suggestions requested.

8. Safeguarding Update

It was reported that Fiona was still awaiting feedback from the Diocese on the proposed face to face course for parish volunteers - ongoing.

9. Any other business

Ruth raised the issue regarding the use of Fairtrade consumables and goods, St Joseph's was registered some time ago as supporting Fairtrade, but we have become a bit lax. Ruth to prepare an item for the newsletter to remind people to use Fairtrade products wherever possible.

There has been an increase in the number of Covid cases recently in the area. It was agreed we would continue to offer Holy Communion under both kinds but remind people it is down to them as individuals, Paul would prepare an item for the newsletter.

Christmas music, it was agreed we would have a Carol service immediately before the St Joseph's Christmas Vigil service. Pip would follow up with Rev Sarah Bick to see if there were any intentions of having an ecumenical Carol service in Coleford.

A question was raised about the need to store the gluten free (square hosts) separately to avoid cross contamination. (Post meeting note consecrated gluten free hosts are now stored separately in the tabernacles. Paul spoke to our only regular parishioner who is at Lydney who receives the gluten free hosts. She doesn't have an issue with her square host coming from the same ciborium as the other hosts).

The question of intinction was raised, it isn't approved by the diocese although in reality we can't stop individuals doing it. It was accepted it wasn't an issue to pursue at the present time.

10. Date of next meeting:

Tentatively Wednesday December the 6th at Coleford possibly 2.30pm but we need to see if Fr Liam or Fr Gary (the new Dean) are available.

The meeting closed with a prayer.