

## MINUTES of Meeting held at St Robert's Centre, Tuesday, 20 October 2015

Present: Mgr Donal, Fr John, Tony Barnes, Paul Barry, Krzysztof Dabrowski, Nimmi D'Cunha, Peter Hannon, John Hughes, Kevin McNerney (Chair), Paul Parker, Kath Plant, Anne-Marie Richards.

1 Mgr Donal opened meeting with a welcome and Prayer.

2 Spiritual Reflection: The August commemorations of the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII in Japan prompted Paul Barry to read from a book called *The Bells of Nagasaki*, written by Dr Takashi Nagai, a devout Christian and a Professor of Radiology at the University Hospital at the time of the dropping of the A-Bomb on Nagasaki. Somehow he survived the blast, though he ultimately succumbed to radiation sickness 6 years later. He delivered an Address at a Memorial Service in the ruins of the Catholic Cathedral in November 1945, as representative of the strong Christian community in that part of Japan, and it was striking the strength of his Faith in the face of such utter destruction and loss of life all around. He referred to the Hand of God in those tragic events and the need for a sacrifice to expiate mankind's sins. What better sacrifice than the heart of the Christian community in Nagasaki, protectors of the Faith for over 400 years in Japan?

Action: Next Spiritual Reflection volunteer: Krzysztof Dabrowski.

3 Apologies: Barbara Macaulay, Francis McAllister, Andy Maslevakas, Paula Shanks, Teresa Aksamit-Hollingsworth.

4 Minutes of 21 July 2015 meeting accepted.

5 Matters Arising:

i. St Robert's Feast Day Weekend Festivities – Feedback? Generally good feedback, particularly about the Sunday Lunch (thanks to the Chef – Monsignor - for his hard work!), the International Food Festival on Sunday evening at St Robert's Club; the Haydon Choir Mass on the following Tuesday. Saturday night at St Robert's Club was not successful as very few people attended the informal Games evening. Specific mention was made about the huge efforts of Mrs Joy O'Brien with regard to the Pilgrimage to St Robert's Cave, Knaresborough, and the work undertaken to clean it up in readiness for the visit. But it was very disappointing that so few people actually attended, young and old alike. In the same context, the Organ Recital the prior Friday evening for Iraqi Christians in Need was also very poorly attended, but was an excellent Recital, and despite the low numbers a total of £1,356 was raised for this most worthy cause.

Discussions around the perceived lack of support for some events took place, and no strong consensus on the reasons why, (or solutions), beyond the usual comments aired on previous occasions:- very large parish; different and fragmented congregations; expectation levels perhaps set too high; Mass reductions (required) leading to a more integrated community; too many events leading to people 'picking and choosing' which to attend; the need to work on 'Celebration'. However, real efforts were made and have been recognised.

The point was also well made (by Fr J) that the Parish is actually called Our Lady and St Robert's Church, and with a lot of focus in recent years on our secondary Saint, we have been guilty of overlooking our primary Patron, Our Lady, Mother of God. It would be appropriate to focus on Her in the future and whether that is December 8th, May or October needs to be considered at a future meeting.

ii. SJF School Minibus – Payment made? The new minibus was on display last weekend at SJF Chapel, and the Parish has made a donation of £2,500 towards the purchase cost.

iii. Meeting of Ministries to be organised. The meeting was reminded of the minute from the July meeting – “It was suggested that there should be meetings of key ministries in Autumn (all the above) with a view to emphasising the commitments and responsibilities in each of these ministries. Who is organising this?” After a brief discussion about which Ministries, it was left that Mgr Donal would organise weekday evening meetings of the key Ministries including Eucharistic, Reading and Greeting, for 1 hour per group.

iv. Organ/Piano Recital for ICIN – Amount raised ? £1,356 including Gift Aided contributions.

v. Music at Mass – Update. Mr Beetles is now making great progress with the Mass communities at 9 and 1130am, and evenings sometimes, on Sundays. His change of tack by getting the congregation to ‘practice’ before Mass begins is paying dividends.

6 Lenten Project Rules Review & 2016 Launch. The sub committee had met and re-formulated a draft set of rules for the operation of the annual Lenten Project, which were handed out to the meeting, discussed, and accepted as presented. There was some discussion around whether we could react to a crisis for people in great need/hardship, rather than specifically a Project for a particular purpose. Common sense will no doubt prevail. As in prior years, the Finance sub-committee of the Council will review all applications received and will put a recommended short list to the full Council for deciding which proposal should be accepted for that year’s Lenten Project. Lent commences on 10 February 2016, so the process needs to get under way shortly so that the decision making by Council can take place at the next meeting in January (Tues, 19/01/2016).

7 A Healing Mass Proposal Peter H outlined his experiences of a ‘Healing Mass’ at a church in Filey which he attends from time to time. It was felt that what was described was probably the Sacrament of the Sick (laying on of hands and anointing with oil), and therefore our clergy felt that there needed to be more consideration about this suggestion so as to ensure that the Sacrament of the Sick was not in any way trivialised. No further action on this proposal, and it was understood that the Clergy will review themselves and act accordingly.

8 World Youth Day, Krakow 2016: A Ceilidh Fundraising Event 13 November The sale of tickets for the Ceilidh is going well, with approx. 70 sold, and the location has now switched to SJF hall. However, the take up of youth members for the trip to Krakow is not proceeding as originally envisaged. A minimum of 10 young people was required, but with only 4 expressing interest, and a final decision to be made imminently because of the need to secure plane tickets etc, it was almost certain that the trip would be cancelled. Fr J did indicate that individuals, if they wished, could join the official Diocesan Trip though that was more costly than what Joy had been trying to organise. The funds raised from the Ceilidh will go into the Youth Group for future events if the Krakow trip is cancelled.

## 9 Clergy Matters

i. Request from Holy Ghost Fathers - Appeal letter dd 4 Aug 2015 This is the Spiritan Fathers, and their request had been given support by the Diocese for 2015. We have missed out this year for them, but having already fitted in two extra collections for others ((Sisters of the Poor, Leeds in Sept, and Aid to the Church in Need 7/8 November), we would have had difficulty any way in accommodating them. Mgr Donal has taken the request letter back and will speak to them directly with the possibility of a collection/appeal during 2016 being offered.

ii. A Parish Census - Fr J advised on progress towards implementing a 2016 Census of parishioners in the early new year (probably February). Krzysztof’s daughter with her Excel skills has re-drafted the database to be used for the collation of all information received. This will allow for easier manipulation of the underlying data once inputted. He has also taken the opportunity to re-draft the input document that parishioners will complete, to ensure that the tick-box approach to different ministries and activities

(preferences/interests) is on the back page not the front of the document, to avoid the problem of the last census where people perhaps felt 'obligated' to tick a number of activities. A copy was shown to Council and will be sent out to everyone with the minutes. Fr J asked everyone to consider and return to him with any ideas they may have about the input document. Fr J stressed that the form was an invitation to participate in the various Ministries not an expectation to do so. Once approved, before Christmas, the preparations for the new year launch can get under way.

iii. Church Decoration - Mgr Donal asked if the re-painting of the body of the church could be continued. Last year the lower walls had been completed up to a certain point above head height, and now it would be appropriate to continue the process up to the roof line. It would be good to have this work undertaken in January/February 2016. Council approved the proposal, and Mgr will take forward.

10 Any other business?

a. Krzysztof mentioned his ideas for Devotions to Our Lady and in particular focus on the months of May and October. He mentioned The Apostolate of the Living Rosary which invites and encourages parishioners to pray and meditate on a decade of the Rosary daily for one month. This Apostolate has Papal approval. [Secretary will put on agenda in January for more detailed discussion].

11 Next Meeting Dates for 2016: The proposed dates for 2016 were the third Tuesdays of January, April, July and October, and these dates were agreed. Please all note in your diaries, smart phones, I-pads etc.

19th Jan, 19th Apr, 19th Jul, 18th Oct.

12 Meeting closed following prayer at 845pm.