

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer Fr Leo
2. Property report Julienne
 - a. Church bell-what are the plans to repair?
 - b. Break-in damage repairs
3. Finance report Deacon James
 - a. Anti-Fraud actions
 - b. Brief verbal update
4. Pastoral report SVP
5. Website
 - a. Hosting control.
 - b. More editors.
6. Card donation machine, will we have one and when?
7. Volunteer fair- we should hold these at least annually, to encourage volunteering. Open it up to outside groups as well? John Borda
8. Should we put "All cash boxes emptied daily" signs near the out of sight windows to discourage burglars? Does church security in general need reviewing?
9. Should we discourage the use of mobile phones/cameras during Mass, (many were used during the first HC Masses)
10. Synod feedback-what can we do as a parish? Juliet and Richard Burnford

Minutes of the Parish Forum 12:18 to 1:19pm Sunday 3rd July 2022



1. Opening Prayer

Fr Leo

2. Fr Leo said this is the last Parish Forum. In the future, once a year, there will be a Parish in council. Fr Leo will set the Agenda and Parishioners will be able to send suggestions to the Parish email.

3. Property Report

Julienne

- a. Church bell-specialist company engineer to visit next week for assessment.
- b. Break-in damage repairs. Insurance assessor require quotes which have been difficult to obtain. Hope to have agreement soon.
- c. Fr Leo has had the audio system upgraded which has been well received.
- d. Fire, Health and safety and lightening conductor inspections have taken place- we are compliant.
- e. Improving security is being discussed post the break-in. Property and Finance committee will update.
- f. Presbytery and retirement bungalow

Deacon John writes:

At the very end of 2018 planning consent was obtained by the diocese for the building of a two-bedroom presbytery for our parish priest and a bungalow for a retired priest, both placed on the reserved land at the far end of the carpark from the church (i.e. on the corner with Rayes Lane). The parish will bear the cost of the presbytery, largely financed by the sale of what was long ago assumed to be a temporary presbytery in Lisburn Road and the diocese will bear the cost of the bungalow. All this was agreed by the retired clergy fund of the diocese and the parish finance committee. Unfortunately, there were delays in getting the costs agreed and builders appointed before covid struck and by the time a new normal was returning, the planning consent had lapsed (October 2021). Bishop Alan as asked Deacon John to resubmit the plans as agreed by the parish and the diocese, and he and Fr Leo have asked him to oversee the process that will lead to the building contracts. Costs will have risen significantly since 2018 and the parish will be kept fully informed as we make the crucial decisions.

4. Finance Report

Deacon James

- a. Anti-Fraud actions were detailed including: two unrelated people to count cash. Bookkeepers and treasurer have no access to the account, so are providing monthly audits against the bank statement. The Property & Finance Committee scrutinize and sign off accounts quarterly, and all significant variances against budget are investigated.
- b. We have over £100k in the bank accounts. For several years we have made a surplus. Income from offertory is growing, but has not yet returned to pre Covid levels.

Income from Hall rentals is growing strongly and expenses are as planned. Thank you to everyone who helps with Finance and Property.

5. **Pastoral report** by **Kathryn Schosland** of the SVP. Visits to the housebound had started again. Lunches in the holidays for families of FSM children continued. Support for the Pop-Up Shop on Thursdays at 11 o'clock. Monthly meetings to review how else to share God's love.
6. **Website** **John Borda**
 - a. Hosting control. The new excellent website has solved this issue.
 - b. It was mentioned that more editors could help to keep content lively.
7. **Card donation machine**, will be considered in the light of the experience of other parishes once we have WIFI throughout the building. Property and Finance Committee will report.
8. **Volunteer fair**- should we hold these at least annually, to encourage volunteering. This may be linked to the Stewardship and Fundraising campaign, when it is launched.
9. **The desire for a new children's liturgy group** at the 11am Mass was confirmed, but no volunteers for this were at the meeting.
10. The idea of putting a notice "All cash boxes emptied daily" on all vulnerable doors and windows was mentioned. Church security in general is being reviewed as we engage with companies on the repairs to the recent break-ins.
11. Thought should be given to the use of mobile phones/cameras during Mass, (many were used during the first HC Masses) We should ask those using them to be aware that this is a sacrament and consideration should be given to not block the views of others worshipping, especially those watching remotely via the Live-streaming kit. **Jenny Balmer** kindly agreed to draft a safeguarding form for use by next year's HC candidates' parents, including permission to allow their children to be photographed by others, and respect for the images that they take.
12. AOB **Declan Burke** voiced his opinion that, why he valued the care taken of the Finances and Property of the Parish, we should be discussing saving souls.
13. AOB **Bill O'Gorman** highlighted the risk of our schoolchildren being taught the normality of Transgender identity. Dcn James pointed out the statement from the Vatican in 2019 entitled "Male and Female He Created Them" which while including a call for love and respect, rejects the idea that gender is distinct from biological sex. Bill was advised to write to the Diocesan Schools Service Commission if he has any evidence that this position is not been followed in our Catholic Schools.
14. **Synod** feedback-what can we do as a parish? **Juliet and Richard Burnford**.
The steps highlighted in the parish Synod report were circulated and attention drawn especially to:
 - a. Youth. How can we prevent our young folk lapsing? Maybe to start a St Monica's prayer meeting.
 - b. Spiritual/faith formation. To consider a regular Friday evening session for parishioners to deepen their spiritual life together - to start in September, after building on the evening of praise and worship planned for Saturday 30th July.
 - c. Communication. To start a board in the Narthex holding information about current and upcoming events and their co-ordinators.
 - d. James thanked Kathryn & Alex for their help & Richard and Juliet for leading the Synodial pathway. He also thanked everyone for coming to the forum.

Closed with a prayer with Fr. Leo

Fr Leo, JH & J& RB 6/7/22