

## **Our 3 Parishes' Pastoral/Mission Team Meeting at St Ambrose, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

- 1. Opening Prayer** – Fr Martin - 1 minute silence and prayer in memory of Kate Chalmers, recently deceased, an active PPT member and cherished parishioner of St Vincent's – may she rest in peace.
- 2. Present:-** Fr Martin, Kevin McKenna, Mark Kernburg, Cathie Kay, Jane Roberts, John Maloney, Hazel Dove, Stuart Monteith, Lucy McJannett, Marge Newbrook, Jim Seggie, Janine Murphy, Praveen Danam, Sarah Slingsby-Commons
- 3. Apologies :-** Margaret McCann, Rosy Hickman, Henry Chukwumah,.
- 4. Minutes of the last meeting & matters arising.**
  - i, Mass of anointing was a success. Request to repeat twice a year. SVP suggested April & September.
  - ii, The seniors' party at St Vincent's went well.
  - iii, Mini Vinnie's Mass - 8 schools attended, with about children. After a lovely Mass, they were entertained admirably by Aquinas students. They would like it repeated – Thank you to everyone who helped.
  - iv, St Vincent's needs to send the numbers required for Gift Aid Envelopes to Parish Office – Parish Office to place orders for all 3 parishes.
- 5. General**
  - a. Advent Reconciliation Services – poor attendance last time, partly due to weather – Proposal for this year 2023: -

OLATA – Saturdays Confessions 10 – 11 am & Sundays 10:40 am, 20 minutes Confession before mass, to continue during Mass, if need be, as we now have two priests.

St Ambrose 0920hrs Thursdays – before mass,  
St Vincent's 0920hrs - before mass,

Confessions to continue until all that want it, have received sacrament of reconciliation on that particular day. That should give everyone ample opportunity to receive the sacrament.
  - b. New Extraordinary ministers of communion – Retreat/Practical meeting 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at Our Lady's, with Sheila Jeffers supporting (18<sup>th</sup>, if Sheila can't do 25<sup>th</sup>, with Marge), beginning with mass at Our Lady's at 0930hrs. The aim is for all parishioners who need a home visit for Holy Communion to receive it. There are increasing requests for Holy Communion and so the need for extraordinary ministers. Posters to go out to Care Homes for awareness in case any Catholics are missing out. The Parish office to arrange this.
  - c. Christmas trees for outside churches. Aim to have a Christmas Tree outside each church this year. Fr Martin will contact his supplier for the trees, costings, and delivery dates.
  - d. Churches together are producing a leaflet of services in Bramhall & Davenport. The Office is to send mass times to Jane Roberts B&D and to Marge Newbrook for Aswood & Edgeley leaflet. Give Christmas Service dates & times by early December. Mark K will look at prices for banners to advertise Christmas Services for the 3 parishes. If possible, leaflets are to be made for the 3 parishes for parishioners to take and add to their Christmas cards.
  - e. The Men's Curry Night - important to encourage younger men and those from different parts of the world to come to know each other. The date is Wednesday 15 November 2023, 6:30 pm at Spice Room, 55 Diary Ground Road SK7 2QW – Welcome William and any newcomers to the parish.
  - g. Update of parish website – e.g. booking masses on the website. Need to improve the website, adding more features. Fr Martin would like to commence a 3 parishes' Facebook page and has asked William to set this up.
  - f. Parish Diary 2024 – The publisher hasn't got enough advertisers yet to move this forward.
- 6. St Ambrose**
  - a. St Ambrose maintenance programme – The gutter has been cleaned but there is some displaced lead that needs addressing. Richard, the property director is moving on, so we may have to wait for the new appointee before

work can be assessed and carried out. Following the cleaning of the gutters there hasn't been any ingress of water. The question then is - Can a bit of paintwork be done inside the church to help maintain the church? – Fr Martin will ask the question when the new person is appointed.

b. Christmas Party/Fare - Too late to arrange for this year. An alternative is - St Ambrose Patronal Feast Day Celebration on 10<sup>th</sup> December, with Tea, Coffee, and Cakes after mass. Praveen to arrange. A tombola during the event – Mark K will arrange. Schoolchildren from St Ambrose are to be invited. A bulletin announcement needs to go in this weekend, calling for tombola items.

c. Sunday Mass Times – as we have 2 priests, could mass be changed from 8.30 am to 9.30 am to accommodate older parishioners? Needs to be sustainable if there is a change and only one priest is available. The following schedule was proposed: 9 am St Vincent's, 10 am St Ambrose, and 11 am OLATA. Fr Martin would like to see if this is acceptable to parishes before further action. Needs to be put in the bulletin this week.

## **7. OLATA**

a. Christmas Carol Concert – no support from the schools. Our school children are going to St Georges this year. Next year they are going to have it at Our Lady's with our two primary schools and possibly other local schools – Fr Martin has already arranged a date with the two schools.

b. Infrared Heating – We need to apply for the relevant faculty from the HBC as OLATA is a listed building if it is to be wall mounted. Free-standing infrared heaters are being considered. The office needs to contact the Church TV services with regards to the camera on the Sanctuary Altar to see if it will impact online viewers.

c. Weekday Masses on High Altar – to commence once heating is arranged.

d. The work in the Presbytery has been paused – no date as yet for the recommencement of works.

e. Rose Window – The diocese has responded that there isn't enough in the Mission Together Fund to pay for the refurbishment of the Rose Window and would need fundraising if that work is to go ahead. Fr Martin will ask the next property director for a costing.

f. SVP - Kevin McKenna - to find out more about supporting refugees from the churches in Stockport.

## **8. St Vincent's**

a. Handrails to the path – Richard at Curial Offices has confirmed that this is in hand with Atkins.

b. Water Heaters – small under sink heater £300 – 400 + Plumbing. Need a quote – send it to Fr Martin.

c. Parishioners in partnership – send another cheque for £3K asap.

d. Appeal for donation for flowers for altar – families to sponsor a week – needs to go into the newsletter.

e. Travelling Nativity – St Vincent's to arrange. Request to arrange this at OLATA needs a volunteer to organise this.

f. Christingle service – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>, 3 pm children make Christingles and sing carols, Toy Mass TBA - agreed.

## **9. Any other business / Next meeting – Our Lady's OLATA 8.2.23 after 7 pm mass.**

a. Rosary - not always just OLATA – In May and October to have the Rosary at all 3 parishes and priests could rotate.

b. Reconciliation Availability – See point 5a.

c. Kitchen Utensil Collection – The parish office was awaiting the requested phone or email contact by the charity. Even if it was just a voice message, the office could have returned their call.

d. Mass for those who have died this year – 26.11.23 at each of the masses. Parish office to send letters to families who have had a funeral to invite them to the mass.

## **11. Closing Prayer. – Fr Martin.**