

ST MARY'S PASTORAL MEETING 8th MAY 2024

Members present: Father Domenico, John, Gary, Chloe, Elaine, Steve, Mags, Walter, Mary. Also welcome to Sharon a new member.

Apologies: Marie and Phil.

Minutes of last meeting: approved by Mags , seconded by Chloe.

Matters arising:

SVP: Since the last meeting , we have given £ 400.00 to CAB and £ 400.00 to Mary's meals. We now have just £ 91.00 left in the account. Some one is to make a speech after Mass one Sunday, to see if there are any parishioners interested in restarting SVP in the parish. If this fails we will just give the remaining money to charity.

Children's Mass: Father Domenico is to see Maria this week, to discuss any arrangements for this.

Station Mass: This went very well. A number of priests including the Bishop. Lots of visitors. It was sociable and we managed to feed them all.

Music at Mass: Father has already discussed this with the few people who proposed the idea and are they are working on some plans.

St Ninians day celebrations: Eric, who was at the last meeting proposed, a family fun day to celebrate St Ninians day. There is no news of this, but he may come up with some ideas later. Mary and Mags suggested organising a Church Trail for the children. Chloe has already taken part in doing one of these for another Church in the area. The idea is to look at the Church in detail and draw up a quiz sheet for children. There can be drawing, photos etc. If we did it for St Ninians Day, we could also "rent it out" to schools trips, brownies, even visitors taking their own children.

We only have to provide the quiz sheets and some pencils and the visitors may give us a donation.

Financial report: Bank balance on 31/03/24 , after known deductions will,
= £50,794.00

Breakdown: donations = £ 34,71634

Average weekly donations = £ 668.00

Gift Aid 2022/23 = £ 5,655

Gift aid 2023/24 will be = £ 6,315

There are 32 gift aid donors

90 Club 62 members

In year to 30/04/24 Income £ 1,020.00, prizes £ 840.00

Official Thank You: We wish to say thank you to Sandy for organising a delightful musical evening. He raised £ 456.00 for are Church Repairs fund.

We also wish to thank Chloe for donating her prints of her painting of IONA. These have raised £ 220.00 so far for the Church Repairs Fund.

Sanctuary repairs: Father Domenico has been making some progress an now has several quotations for the preliminary work of digging an

exploratory pit for examination. Present quotes range from £ 1,200 to £ 1,500.00. He has then to get a Building Warrent. He seems to have arranged for the cost of this to be covered.

Xmas Fayre: Marie was not able to be at this meeting. We discussed all the various factors involved and made a decision to have all the plans sorted out by mid November. It was decided that, as this as is a Parish event, we should encourage the whole parish to take part.

We have agreed to have a separate PARISH meeting at the end of August.

Fashion Show: This is booked for next Spring. Marie has already planned a lot of this, we will have wine and cheese. Price £ 20.00 per person.

There will be a raffle.

The cost of hiring the Hall is £ 300.00

There will be a bar, run by the community centre.

She has a Compere Judy Mackintosh. Posters will be done (free).

Models and Advertising are already sorted.

We will need to buy raffle books as well as the wine and cheese.

Sponsors: Marie has already been given a list of likely sponsors, which she will contact nearer the time.

Possible handrail for steps onto Altar:

Marie asked about the possibility of a handrail being put up on the left side of the Altar steps, as she sometimes has difficulty coming the steps.

We discussed various ways of doing this, none of which were easy. We decided to ask advice from the Health and Safety Officer. Father Domenico to follow this up

Repair of benches: Apparently these were irreparable, so they have already been broken up. These were the outside benches. We are awaiting and estimate for two new benches from the Mens Shed.

Notice at back of the Church:

There was a notice at the back of the Church, suggesting a fractious child should be taken into the Hall. The wording was inappropriate, so it will be removed.

Father will put up a new notice and include the information that a video of the Mass will be on in the hall.

Video in the hall: as above.

One fundraising idea: Gary came up with the fundraising idea of having a box at the back of the Church to put your spare £ 1 coins in. This is to try and acquire enough coins to reach a mile (or kilometre). We could have a chart beside it showing how far we have got.

Quiz night: We are about to have the Quiz night later this week. Again organised by Sandy for the Church Repair Fund.

Date of next two meetings:

Special open meeting for the Parish to plan Xmas Fayre 28th August 20

Pastoral council meeting 18th September