

Parish of the Nativity of the Lord
St Teresa of the Child Jesus – Core Group Meeting – 14th June 2011 – 7.30pm

Present: Fr Andrew, Alex Hunter, Pamela Schwenk, David Carter, Claire Franklin, Clare Briffa (minutes)
Apologies: Liz Braines

1. Issues arising from previous minutes: None.

2. Feedback from Clergy & PPC/wider issues

a) The International Mass was a great success in celebrating the diversity of our worshipping community.

Action: Ann Lardeur and Cecilia are to be thanked.

Request to be made to clergy team that this become an annual event.

b) Ministry of Welcome training – has taken place & was well received

c) PPC meeting gave an update on the Parish Development

d) There is a change of Mass times – reasonably well received: St Teresa's has gained a weekday mass

e) Adult formation programme: Ann St John Hall has created a master plan for the parish.

3. Future of Core Group and its members

a) No-one has come forward to nominate anyone to replace Clare Briffa and Pamela Schwenk

Action: Core Group members to try and find willing replacements over the next week

Fr Andrew to take issue back to clergy team

b) Suggestion that there should be a tighter link between the Core Group and those who organise events. Agreement that St Teresa's could benefit from having organisational committees as and when they are needed, and that an 'ad hoc' Events Committee could be called to meet before events (Christmas, Easter, etc). Anyone who wants to call an Events Committee to meet should inform the Core Group (by email if no Core meeting upcoming) so that a Core Group member can facilitate this meeting.

Two important points were made in regard to this, to allow for the differing gifts in the community and recognising that another level of bureaucracy isn't always welcome:

i) Whilst all Core Group members are free to involve themselves in the organisation of events, there should be no sense in which there is pressure on Core Group members to do so.

- ii) Those who want to organise events are not obliged to form an 'events committee' – many prefer to organise things by approaching people directly (as with the International Mass).

4. New Translation of Missal

- a) Mass in new translation: Order of Mass cards are on order from DABCEC. New translation will be in place at all masses at the beginning of Advent. Clare B noted that the May press release from the Bishops' Conference says that the new translation will be gradually being introduced from September. Here inserted is the press release: ...the bishops have produced resources for all our parishes and, as from September, we will gradually begin to use the new liturgical texts at Mass and hear why certain changes have been made. Each diocese is already preparing its priests and deacons, catechists and liturgical ministers. Programmes for schools are being developed and new musical settings are being composed. From September until Advent everyone will have the opportunity to study the new texts and familiarise themselves with the prayers and chants. In addition, this period of preparation will allow us to pray these new texts.

Fr Andrew has already introduced a new unaccompanied setting for the Sanctus and Agnus Dei at a St Joseph's weekday mass, and is happy to also introduce this at St Teresa's at one weekday mass.

Action: Fr Andrew to confer with clergy team over any introduction of parts of the new translation prior to Advent

- b) Formation/talks on new translation: Fr Andrew has offered to lead two sessions on the new translation

Action: Fr Andrew to confirm dates of these sessions

5. Children's Liturgy and Mass

All agreed that this is a good idea. Date proposed is Christ the King (October).

Action: David Carter to liaise with Children's Liturgy team to prepare the children.

6. Churches Together Sunday Fun day (24th July)

Fr Andrew has agreed to be the St Teresa's clergy representative for this event, including attending the next meeting on 22nd June. He has already met his counterparts from the other churches in Merstham. The event will be advertised in the Newsletter as usual.

7. Vision for Parish

- a) Integration of international members of our community –

- i) Fr Andrew has contacted all the parishioners who might be considered to come into this category and has offered them the opportunity of a House Blessing. (These

are not exclusive to the international community, and there are notices for everyone to see in the three churches). He has had a positive response to this, and has carried out a number of house blessings.

ii) The international mass was a success (see point 2 a) above)

iii) What more can we do? Various ideas were mooted, including the idea of parishioners whose first language is English offering to 'buddy up' with someone for whom English is a second language, for conversation (and hopefully friendship).

Action: Clare B to produce poster for this

b) Post confirmation formation –

There is a dearth of parishioners between the ages of 14 and c.20. We need to focus some effort on how to go about encouraging this age-group to attend more. Trips out were suggested – to Monasteries etc. The point was also emphasised that an early impact on the youth, pre-confirmation, would be a good idea. More thought needed, together with co-ordination with Lizzie Wakeling and others who are involved across the three churches. Fr Andrew raised the issue of whether it would be a good idea to have a paid Youth Worker.

[Action: could we take this last idea to the PPC or should it be raised with the clergy team? –Ed.]

c) Taking stock of how integration with Redhill and Reigate is going –

- Overall the feeling was that we have come a long way in two years, and that people are feeling positive about being part of a larger parish. There is now parish-wide Eucharistic Ministry training, Reconciliation/1st Communion classes, Liturgy training. There are increased numbers of people from the other churches also coming to mass at St Teresa's. It was noted that the Saturday evening mass at St Teresa's is popular with many for being a quiet mass.
- There is still discussion about whether we are to have a Parish of the Nativity bank account, or whether the three churches can keep separate accounts.
- Now we have a very good piano at St Teresa's, it would be nice to have a pianist playing occasionally, but we haven't been able to 'poach' any talent from Redhill or Reigate, so we need to try and source someone ourselves. Fr Andrew played recently, which everyone enjoyed, and he would be willing to teach someone to play the piano in a liturgical setting.

Action: Fr Andrew to put note up to this effect.

8.Servers

Claire F reported an increase in numbers at St Teresa's. Alex H has volunteered to be a senior server, and Claire F has agreed to give him refresher training.

Action: Pamela to ask for servers for 26th June (1st Holy Communion)

9. Reading at Mass guidance and training

Action: Pamela to ask MA to take charge of this and publish a date in September parish-wide for training

10. AOB

- a) Proposal of possibility of another evening mass in the week for those who work. Fr Andrew willing to do this in principle, though this would not be at St Teresa's, since we already have the Friday evening.

Action: Fr Andrew to take this to clergy team.

- b) When the three parishes became one, we were given a list of different areas of parish/ liturgical/pastoral life which each of the three priests would be in charge of. Are we to presume that these are no longer valid?

- c) Newsletter being double-sided is a great improvement

- d) Who is in charge of the notice-boards? Each notice-board has a different person in charge of it, but it would be good to have someone overseeing all of them.

Action: Fr Andrew to ask someone to take on this role

- e) New piano is very good! Anyone who would like to play it at mass – co-ordinate with Viv and Pat OByrne

- f) Bequests – Fr Andrew has confirmed that people will be able to make specific bequests to St Teresa's church, which can be used for St Teresa's alone (unless the church no longer exists), with special permission from the Bishop to satisfy Canon Law.

- g) Parish wide prayer groups – someone has enquired about these – he should contact Ann St John Hall at Reigate, or the Charismatic group based at Redhill on a Monday evening.

- h) PPC Friday 17th June

Meeting concluded at 9.30pm