**AMDG**

**Parish 2016 AGM Notes**

We have held 3 quorate meetings of the PCC since our last AGM

Some of the past year’s achievements:

1. The Sacramental programme was run by Sarah Hodgkinson again year and it has been a successful outcome for our candidates for Confirmation and First Communion. Thank you Sarah
2. Similarly, Sarah has supported the Children’s Liturgy at St Joseph’s with additional volunteers helping the very young children to have their own space and activities. Our thanks to Sarah for supporting this. I am looking forward to using the space in the new St Joseph’s Chapel for more of this activity and the social time after Mass
3. Advent Services: all the Masses enjoyed very good attendances especially the Vigil Mass and our thanks are extended to Lucy Harrison and John Thomasson for their efforts in putting together all the Christmas Packs and for all others who provided assistance particularly on Christmas Eve. The Vigil Mass Choir and servers was directed by Mary Mann and family, the Midnight Mass was especially supported by Paul Bell as Cantor and the Turner family with an array of instruments and voices! If you were not aware, the Ribble Valley Mayor Christmas Concert was held at St Peter’s and was very well attended.
4. The Easter Triduum was wholly shared with the College retreatants. This is now I think the third year of joint sharing and it does seem to go well for all concerned. On behalf of all the committee I would like to extend thanks to John Thomasson for his lead in this, and the Easter services booklet produced by Frances Ahearne. I think I would like to add at this point that for many years John Holden of Winckley has been a stalwart in helping to organise readers, assisting the Parish Priests over the decades (ever since Fr Paul McGill SJ asked him to start the involvement of the laity as readers), and has always been a constant figure in the Parish life. John is taking more of a consultancy and advisory role now but I would like to formally record our thanks and I hope he will continue to keep a friendly eye on our activities for many years to come.
5. The Parish Extra was again published at Advent and our thanks to Frances Ahearne for helping its publication and for John Holden’s item about the history of the Church crib
6. The waiting is over for the new St Joseph’s Chapel, and we were honoured to have Bishop John celebrate its opening. I think we have to remember that the development is an educational one which incorporates a school Chapel. I am unsure at this point what the needs for its refinement and character are but I know there is good will to make it a centre for regular worship and be family orientated. I would like to express the Parish’s thanks to the school based Sunday 10am attendees who have assisted in setting up in the school for each Mass and then tidied up afterwards. Whenever Julie and I have attended Mass there, it has always had a sense of joy and community and I hope the transfer from school to Chapel will continue that spirit for many years to come.
7. Saturday Vigil Mass music: it is great to have accompanied singing at the Vigil Mass again and our thanks to Greg Mann for supporting this activity
8. Part-time secretary: we have been instructed by the Province to have in place some administrative support for every Jesuit Parish, whether full time/part-time paid, or part-time and voluntary. Our Parish is currently still making steps towards this goal and given the uncertainty of Parish priests in our Diocese let alone the Province it is something we need to get moving on sooner rather than later. It will be interesting to see if Deacons are also brought into Diocesan life in the near future – and our Pope seems to be thinking along some interesting discussions involving women in the Church.
9. College Mission: ‘ Let your light shine’: the invitation to join in the College two day event was supported by the Parishioners participating in a Vigil of the Blessed Sacrament, an invitation to the Parish only for a talk lead by Phillip Endean SJ and then the second day we were fortunate enough to have a whole day event in the St Joseph’s cemetery where under the supervision of Bernard Holden, we had two groups of college pupils (morning and afternoon) assisting in the clear up of leaves, branches and other debris in the cemetery. It was greatly appreciated to have this input in one day which benefitted both the students and ourselves in working to tidy up this special place.
10. Jazz Dance: with our friends at St John’s Church we had a joint Jazz Supper Dance at the Memorial Hall. We were not sure if it would be as popular as last time but we had not appreciated the numbers of Strictly Dancers in the village and it was a greatly enjoyable evening.
11. A BBQ Social took place in June at my last house (!). We had some 30+parishioners and their families taking part in boules, rounders and the BBQ itself. It was a bit cool but still fun.
12. Cemetery guidelines: the Finance Committee has been setting out updated guidelines with reference to the Cemetery. This includes eligibility, costings and maintenance. I don’t want to go into detail now but the document will be added to the Parish website. Please take time to look at this at your leisure and speak to Fr or any Finance committee member if you need check on any aspect of the documents.

I hope this is a reasonable summary of the past year in our Parish. My thanks go to the volunteers who serve on the Pastoral committee and for coming out when it is not particularly pleasant weather; but without their commitment too much would fall on the shoulders of Father and we have a responsibility to take our Laity Mission seriously and serve the Parish accordingly.

Thank you for listening and thank you for coming!

**LDS**