

Holy Rood Liturgy Group meeting Number 21

Friday 26th June 2015 10.15 at 21 Woodside Avenue.

Present: Canon John Cunningham (JC), Fr Dominic Findlay- Wilson (DF), Deacon Jonathan Ager (JA) Dorothy Ager (DA), Julia Arkell (JBA), Frances Corrigan (FC), Noreen Bint (NB), Marguerite Holliday (MH)

- 1. Prayer and Welcome:** Marguerite
- 2. Minutes of Meeting 6th February 2015:** Previously circulated.
- 3. Matters Arising:**
 - Credo 3 to be introduced at 11o'clock Mass this weekend.
 - Dates for individuals and groups doing Stations had had to be changed

Re ordered Agenda:

- 4. Planning for the future of this group:**

Several of us have been members of this group since its inception and it is important that we look forward to others becoming involved and planning who might take our place at some point in the future. We need to look at who could succeed us and begin to approach others, to encourage them into ministry. Training courses are available or we could offer training. **Action: all to try invite someone along to our next meeting**
- 5. Altar Servers:**

There is uneven attendance of servers at Sunday mass. There are often too many at 9.30am, only one or two at 6.15pm, 8am & 11am and sometimes none on Sunday evening. It would be good to encourage older servers including adults as well as those who have just made their first Holy Communion. It is important to emphasise that it is a real ministry that is open to people of any age, that it is a ministry that continues and that commitment is involved. At present there is an exodus between the ages of 15 & 16. Some social activities would help to retain older servers.
- 6. 9.30am Mass review:**

The large numbers attending 9.30am mass means that stewarding would be an asset. We will **advertise in the newsletter after the summer holidays. Ask for volunteers and train them!** New people are arriving in the parish all the time and it is important that we welcome them and find seats for as many people as possible. We could sensitively encourage people from the porch into church. We also need to limit the number of announcements. **** None of us recalled that the main area we were concerned about and wanted to discuss was the so-called "Family Mass". This will need to be on the agenda for our next meeting****
- 7. July 11th Proclaim 15 Evening Prayer Vigil: 7.15pm - 8.15pm:**

MH and FC will liaise about the choice of Hymns. Jonathan will lead and prepare a short reflection and Benediction and JBA will organise Readers for the first scripture reading, the psalm and the Litany. A number of young adults will be available. **N.B. Home Mission Sunday 20th September will build on the Proclaim 15 initiative.**
- 8. Welcome at Mass:**

JBA and MH had discussed whether one of the readers at each weekend mass could welcome people a few minutes before mass begins. We all felt that this was a good idea - gradually train people and introduce this after the Re commissioning of readers.

9. Review of past services and events:

- a. **Ash Wednesday.** Masses 8am, 12.45 and 7pm. All well attended. Imposition of Ashes and communion went smoothly, despite crowds.
- b. **Lenten Penitential Service.** Friday 27th March. JA led again. Exposition was managed better and people mostly responded as asked by returning to main body of the church to pray after individual confession. .
- c. **Stations of the Cross. Lent Fridays at 7pm:** All went well but dates need to be clearly communicated to those involved.
- d. **Palm Sunday:** Outside processions cancelled because of stormy weather.
- e. **Holy Thursday:** Liturgy went well. More crowded than usual.
- f. **Good Friday Morning:** JA led Stations. Large numbers for both Stations and Confessions. The significant numbers from other parishes, as we are the only parish in the Deanery offering Confession on Good Friday, again meant there were long queues and unpleasant aggression because of misunderstandings about the queuing system. Canon John said we would continue to offer Confessions on Good Friday morning so we need to consider ways we can improve the organisation.
- g. **Good Friday 3pm:** Instructions given about veneration of the cross, before the service began. Clear instructions for individual Veneration of the Cross given – (not to queue until those who wish to leave the church have done so & to approach the cross from the middle aisle and leave by the side). Several stewards managed queues so veneration was dignified.
- h. **Holy Saturday Morning:** Office of Readings and Morning Prayer. Well attended although **one of** the catechumen who should have been there was waiting out of sight in the main body of the Church and the Rites took place later.
- i. **Easter Vigil:** Candles extinguished at the end of the Exsultet so less mess but candles still left all around the church after mass. Prayerful mass and good readers.
- j. **Easter Day Masses:** All readers good.
- k. **Gospel Procession:** From Easter onwards The Book of the Gospels has been processed at 11am mass. Despite instructions about when to move being given to Cantors and Readers there are still timing problems sometimes and occasional near collisions!
- l. **Confirmation 12th May.** A prayer- filled evening.
- m. **First Communions. Sundays 21st and 28th June:** Special Masses at 3pm. FC planned and rehearsed music with parents and children but was too ill to conduct on either occasion. Thanks to Marcia who took her place. The First Mass had gone well.

10. Parish feast. Monday 14th September:

MH will organise New Life Choir rehearsal and contact Holy Cross about banners. JBA will organise readers and bidding prayers. NB will contact the Polish girl who sings psalm at weekday mass.

Matters to be discussed at the next meeting will include: **Family Mass, Proclaim 15, Advent, Christmas.**

Date of next meeting: at 10.15am on Thursday 8th October 2015 at 3 Raglan Close.