

# Holy Rood Liturgy Group meeting: Number 23

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 10.15am in the Parish Room.**

**Present:** Canon John Cunningham (JC), Fr Dominic Findlay-Wilson (DF), Deacon Jonathan Ager (JA) Dorothy Ager (DA), Julia Arkell (JBA), Noreen Bint (NB), Marguerite Holliday (MH) also Kate Bason ( KB) and Deana Hunt ( DH) **Apology:** Frances Corrigan

**Welcome:** MH welcomed all especially KB attending for the first time.

**Prayer:**

**Minutes of Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015** Previously circulated.

## **1. Matters Arising/Action points:**

### **a) Planning for the future of this group:**

1. Readers: KB will be taking over Sunday Readers' rota and training as from Easter.
2. It was decided that the role of Chair should be rotated. (DF to chair the next three meetings.)
3. Members should feel able to invite people with an interest in or responsibility for liturgy to the next meeting.

**b) Welcome at Mass:** MH raised this during the Readers and Ministers Day in November. Welcome has been common at 9.30 and 5.30 for some time and has been happening at most of the other masses since 17<sup>th</sup> January. Second reader welcomes and gives out relevant information about 2 minutes before mass - has been welcomed by most in the congregations.

**c) Altar servers:** We do not always have the optimum number. (6) JC and DF would continue to work towards this. Another training session is taking place on Saturday. We will place extra seating by the baptistery – wooden chairs from Blessed Sacrament chapel to accommodate servers.

**d) Stewards:** NB had spoken to Stephen Lake about stewards at crowded masses but had not done poster or asked for volunteers. This would be advertised from w/e of 21<sup>st</sup> February.

**e) Winter meeting of Society of St Gregory:** in Oxford was attended by Marguerite, Deana Hunt and Ruth Barrett. Very good and theologically challenging.

**f) Weekday Confessions:** Wednesday more popular than Thursday. Priests would review timings after Lent.

**g) 24 hours for the Lord:** Deanery clergy had decided that they were unable to organise this on a deanery basis.

## **2. Review of recent liturgies**

**a) Advent Penitential Service:** Beautiful but people are still not coming in the numbers we hoped for, despite advertising the extra priests available. Perhaps look at a Saturday morning as well as an evening in December 2016.

**b) Christmas Masses:** Christmas Eve masses are lovely but both are very crowded. Various options considered such as streaming the mass to the primary school, issuing tickets and having an extra mass at 9.30pm. JC thought we could try this last option this year. 8, 9.30 and 11 were all well attended but there continues to be a problem finding readers and ministers to staff these.

**c) New Year's Day:** 8am, 9.30 and Konkani mass at 11 were all crowded. The timing of these is probably right as people manage to leave before other mass-goers arrive for the next mass.

**d) Ash Wednesday:** All three masses were crowded. (At 12.45 Parish room was solid pushchairs.) JBA suggested moving first mass to 7.30 to avoid the traffic congestion and associated problems with parents bringing their children to school as mass was finishing. JC thought that this was a good idea for next year. DF felt we need to make it clear that ashes are not available to be taken away after mass – all agreed.

### 3. Forthcoming Liturgies:

- a) **Stations of The Cross:** 12<sup>th</sup> February: JC , 19<sup>th</sup> February: JA, 26<sup>th</sup> February: HRYAA  
4<sup>th</sup> March: Goan prayer group, 11<sup>th</sup> March: Adult formation group, 18<sup>th</sup> March: DF
- b) **Scrutinies:** Will not take place this year.
- c) **Year of Mercy Penitential service:** For Swindon area - 7pm on 17<sup>th</sup> March with Bishop Declan. MH will invite musicians and singers from other parishes to a practice. JBA will contact those in charge of readers in other parishes. Parish council members to be asked to welcome.
- d) **Palm Sunday:** Reading of passion - Priest/Deacon: Christ. Readers: Narrator+ 2  
Processions at 9.30 and 11 – altar party only - from main porch – building work may not be finished.
- e) **Chrism Mass:** 11am Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Coach booked - to leave at 8.45.
- f) **Triduum:** DF will lead Triduum this year.
- g) **Holy Thursday:** JBA will organise people to have their feet washed. Procession to Altar of Repose without canopy. Flowers for Altar - volunteers needed. Night Prayer at 10.50.
- h) **Good Friday:** Reading of passion - Priest/Deacon: Christ. Readers: Narrator+ 2. Veneration of the cross as last year- JA to walk around outside of church accompanied by 2 stewards. Communion: This year priests and deacon to go to the extremes in the porch and outside. NB - Umbrellas over hosts if raining! Clear instructions needed for veneration during and after the service.
- i) **Holy Saturday Liturgy:** JBA to arrange Blessed Sacrament chapel and find readers.
- j) **Easter Vigil: 8.30pm** No baptisms this year. Extinguish candles at the start of readings.
- k) **Easter Sunday:** Morning masses are usually well attended. Laudate are hoping to lead music at 5.30.
- l) **Confirmation:** 2 Confirmation Masses - 17<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm. NB spoke about the composition of this year's candidates – only about 50% at St Jo's and almost all Goan - and suggested greater involvement of Goan music groups. DH and MH have already started planning and have invited St Joseph's College choir to sing with the New Life choir. MH noted that Goan Music groups are always invited to take part but are usually unable to commit to leading more than one hymn in Konkani.
- m) **First Communion masses:** 3pm on 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June. Is music decided?

4. **Special Liturgies folder:** to be kept in the presbytery. Including such ceremonies as Commissioning of readers and extraordinary ministers; Welcome for Baptism parents and children; Enrolment of candidates for first communion programme and Inscription for confirmation programme, Rite of Welcome for RCIA. NB to assemble.

5. **New Rites for Marriage and Confirmation:** have just been published. Will be in use from Easter this year.

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday April 28<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 am in the Parish Room**

#### Items to note following this meeting:

**4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> March: 24 hours for the Lord:** A programme involving a number of groups has been arranged for the parish.

**17<sup>th</sup> March:** JBA has arranged reader from Holy Family parish

**Divine Mercy Sunday:** Prayer at Holy Rood in the afternoon of Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - the Octave day of Easter.