

Minutes of Holy Rood Liturgy Group meeting no. 24
Thursday 28th April 2016 10.30am 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), Frances Corrigan (FC), Marguerite Holliday (MH), Deana Hunt (DH) and Anne Johnstone (AJ) - attending for the first time.

Welcome and Prayer: DF welcomed everyone and we began with prayer.

Minutes of meeting 11th February 2016: Approved.

1. Review of recent Liturgies:

- a) **24 hours for the Lord:** A variety of different prayer opportunities during the time attracted a cross section of the parish. Appreciated by those who came.
- b) **Stations of the Cross:** Each leader or group used different Stations. (No-one used St Alphonsus!) All were very well attended – more than last year. NB: Reader should remain at mike and not genuflect – sound lost! Probably best not to use Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be at every station.
- c) **Rejoice with me - Reconciliation with Bishop Declan:** A prayer-filled, beautiful and joyful evening attended by a cross section of people from parishes across the Deanery. All priests from Deanery attended (12). Many remarked that the music was excellent.
- d) **Palm Sunday:** Procession – singers in porch not synchronised well with piano/organ at 9.30 and 11. For next year investigate/ practise with microphone to see how to improve. Music was easier to hear at Sunday evening mass.
- e) **Chrism Mass:** Yet again lay participation was mostly white, middle-aged and middle-class – not representative of those at the Chrism Mass, let alone the Diocese. Canon will raise this at the Chapter meeting.
- f) **Holy Thursday:** Beautiful and prayerful pace. (As was whole Triduum – congratulations to Fr Dom on his first celebration of the Triduum!) NB: Feet not Foot washing! Although Deana could not be there she was honoured to have been invited to have her feet washed. Maybe next year? Perhaps Deacon Jonathan could have feet washed next year?
- g) **Good Friday:** Possibly more crowded but fewer people trying to grab cross as Deacon Jonathan processed around church. Veneration after mass was organised well and was more reverent. Marguerite had attended the Act of witness/drama in Wroughton instead and raised the question of an act of witness in the Town Centre – as used to happen until about 10 years ago.
- h) **Holy Saturday morning:** A lovely liturgy – Frances read with passion! About 40 attended.
- i) **Easter Vigil:** The Vigil was much enjoyed and was beautiful, even though there were no receptions or baptisms. Our numbers were down. People appear to be dispersing to other Parishes in town in order to have a seat.
- j) **Easter Day:** Good numbers attended all masses and people felt the masses were very joyful.
- k) **Divine Mercy:** 3pm prayer was much appreciated. Of the 180 who came, probably 150 were from our parish.
- l) **Baptism Welcome liturgies:** These liturgies work better at the 11am mass as there is space for reserved seating. Parents have appreciated coming to mass and being welcomed.

- 2. Report on Paul Inwood Day in Glastonbury (MH & NB)** Clare Kingston and Elizabeth also attended. It was an excellent day. Others would have benefited but publicity of the day meant that some thought it was just for those who play a musical instrument. There was much inspiration for our liturgies!

3. Forthcoming Liturgies:

- a) **Confirmation - 17th and 26th May 7pm: New Rite** - Similar structure but new wording of the Rite is mandatory from Easter this year. **Music:** New Life Choir practices on 3rd and 10th May. St Joseph's choir may not be available on both dates.
- b) **First Holy Communions June 19th & 26th 3pm:** Frances has been in touch with Holy Cross and Holy Rood as her operation is now scheduled after Pentecost. However, neither had yet planned music. MH and FC will liaise with the schools.
- c) **Dates for Commissioning:** Ministers: Corpus Christi, Readers: Sts Peter and Paul?
- d) **Parish Feast:** Wednesday 14th September at 7pm. (No 5.45pm Mass) JBA will organise Readers, MH will organise music, NB will coordinate refreshments. Would be good to have prayer cards. (500?) Ask Maria Dias and also find out Westbrook prices.

4. Matters for discussion, information and comment:

- a) **HRYAA' Holy Hours:** FC has particularly enjoyed these and finds Friday evening a good time.
- b) **Prayer for Youth:** FC found using prayer card is good but felt it could have been more inclusive.
- c) **Behaviour of some Confirmation candidates at mass and at Reconciliation service:** FC and NB commented that some of the candidates this year are quite immature and do not seem to be able to behave with reverence at mass or when waiting to go to confession.
- d) **Adult Formation Group:** Planning for study of Verbum Domini on Tuesdays in May and June and for focus on Scripture during the autumn. Advertise to Readers and catechists.
- e) **Society of St Gregory:** Frances gave out the details of the summer school.
- f) **Special Liturgies folder:** NB has assembled texts of a number of special liturgies. They need to be put on a memory stick, to be kept in Parish office with the folder, to facilitate any updates.
- g) **Gospel procession:** Often messy at 11am as readers coincide with Deacon and altar servers on steps. Suggested that Readers leave the Sanctuary at the end of the second reading and stand facing the Lectern. Cantor moves away from microphone at the end of the Alleluia verse and joins the readers so all 3 bow together as the Deacon places the Book of the Gospels on the lectern.
- h) **Intercessions:** DF raised the problem of Readers being too slow to start the Prayers of the Faithful. Suggest that the Reader moves from their place when last paragraph of Creed begins.
- i) **Altar servers:** DF suggested a rota so that there would be a manageable number of altar servers at 9.30am and so that some altar servers would be on duty at all masses if possible. It was suggested that Jose Estrochio could be asked to organise this.

Date of next meeting: Thursday October 13th 10.30am in the Parish Room