

Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington

The Presbytery, 3^A Dormer Place, Leamington Spa, CV32 5AA

Meeting 134

February 25th, 2019, at St Peter's

Notes

Those present were: Brian Austin (Chair), Janice Austin, Christa-Maria Cross, Richard Gordon, Lynda Gould, Diana O'Reilly (for item 1 only) and Jonathan Holden.

Apologies: Jenny Armstrong, Anne Elson, Wilf Feely and Anna Godwin.

The meeting opened with the SPAN prayer and a reflection on the gospel for the 8th Sunday of Year C, Luke 6: 39-45.

1. Prisoners of Conscience cards (March 29th and 30th).

- Diana reported that she had received the list of addressees from ACAT, but that unlike last Easter there were only 2 individuals and 4 organizations on it for whom Christian Easter cards were acceptable. However, they did provide a short biography and photo of each of the addressees, both Christian and non-Christian. June Arran at St Joseph's had told her that her art group would be happy to produce the cards with a pre-printed message inside.
- After discussion, it was decided that we would offer both Christian and non-Christian recipients and make them all non-religious cards for safety. We can then ask parishioners merely to select an addressee and sign a card with a pre-printed message such as 'We are thinking of you at this time: you are not forgotten. [space for signature] Card prepared by the Art Group for Justice and Peace, Leamington, UK'; each parishioner selecting a card (and paying for its postage) should be given a small sheet of paper headed 'Please pray for' and containing the name, biography and picture of the prisoner of conscience it would be sent to.
- Diana planned to organize the signing at St Peter's and St Joseph's, not at Our Lady's. It was agreed to review after Easter what parishioners thought of the scheme and whether more effective means of communicating with the prisoners might be found.

Brian to place a short description of the scheme in the Newsletter Extra to be issued very soon.

2. Rosary intention for March.

- **'We pray that the bishops at the papal summit on child abuse went home fully committed to eradicating that evil from their local churches.'**

Lynda to put on the J&P noticeboard in the church; Jonathan to enter in the Newsletter and on the website.

3. Poverty and Homelessness

- Janice reported that a new project worker had been selected and would soon be appointed by the Way Ahead Project. The number of people dropping in to the Salvation Army Centre had increased in the last week to an average of 28 a day.
- A number of SFG volunteers, including Julia Fan who is being trained to replace Janice as SFG Convenor, are participating in a mental health awareness course funded by the EU, and are finding it very demanding as well as enlightening.
- Brian and Janice had attended the 10th Anniversary celebration of the Leamington Night Shelter at which Chris Johnson, recently retired from active involvement with the shelter, was made an 'honorary ambassador' for the project. Matt Western MP attended and praised the Shelter's work, recalling that he had paid tribute to voluntary sector workers in the House of Commons the previous week.

4. Lenten Stations of the Cross

- Janice reported that she had produced a final rota of readers and leaders for each week in Lent. She and Anne Bracey would be the coordinators, and Anne had volunteered to lead the singing of each verse of the *Stabat Mater* each week if she could use a hand-held microphone.

Jonathan to show Anne where to find the hand-held microphone in the Inner Sacristy.

- A copy of the booklet for the congregation had been given in to the Parish Office for Jane Rebika to produce 60 stapled copies before Ash Wednesday, and three copies of the Reader's and Leader's booklet had been prepared – Janice would leave one in an envelope at the back of the church for Anne Bracey (reader on Ash Wednesday), Jonathan (leader that day) had his own, and he would leave a spare in the Sacristy with the pictures.
- Two of the pictures were being replaced this year: Wilf Feely had enlarged them to A3 and passed them to his daughter Emma for mounting on stiff card.

5. **Climate Change Meeting**

- Brian announced that the meeting with Matt Western MP had been rearranged for Thursday March 14th at 6.45 for 7 pm. Since there was no room available in the Parish centre, it would now be in the Portland Room of Oddfellows' Hall at 6 Clarence Terrace. It was to be a discussion between Catholic Leamington parishioners and the MP, who would not be giving a speech, so all were asked to prepare questions to put to him.

Brian to publicise; all to prepare suitable questions.

6. **Fair Trade Fortnight (February 25th to March 10th)**

- Brian announced on Jenny's behalf that the fair trade stalls would be after 10 am mass at Our Lady's on March 3rd and after 11 am mass at St Peter's on March 10th. Lynda said she already had three volunteers for the St Peter's stall.
- As a result of Anne's initiative, Brian showed the meeting a draft leaflet listing Fair Trade goods available in local stores, which was much praised, based on the research done by various people present at the last meeting. In discussion some additions were suggested: inclusion of Lynda's list for Marks & Spencer, greater stress on the fact that these were Leamington stores, a mention that this was prepared by parishioners for Catholic Leamington, a publication date and a note that the Fair Trade products available in each store were likely to change from time to time.

Brian to finalize and make copies available to parishioners.

7. **Leamington Peace Festival (June 15th-16th)**

- Brian had emailed the organizers to say that we wanted our two speaking slots, and that the church would again be open to visitors during the Festival each afternoon.
- Lynda said she had had a reply from Emma Rayment saying that the Catholic Leamington and Warwick youth group were keen to contribute a peace display to the Festival; Lynda would attend a Summit Prayer Group meeting to explain what would be needed. She was asked to stress that it needed to be on 'Peace'.

Lynda to attend Summit Group meeting.

8. **Any Other Business**

- Brian reminded people that Friday March 15th was CAFOD Family Fast Day, when there would be bread and soup lunch at 1 pm in the Parish Hall.
- He reminded people also of the Justice & Peace retreat from 10 to 4 on Saturday March 16th at St Paul's Convent, Selly Park, led by Fr Martin Newall CP – booking required. A notice had been circulated.

8. **Future Meetings**

- The next meeting will be at 7.30 pm in the small hall at **Our Lady's** Lillington on Monday March 25th, when the reflection will be on the gospel for the 4th Sunday of Lent (Year C), Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32.
- Subsequent meetings will be at 7.30 pm on Mondays April 29th (St Joseph's Hall), May 20th and June 24th (both in the Davenport Room), July 29th (Our Lady's), our annual review meeting at 2 pm Tuesday September 3rd (Davenport Room), then 7.30 pm Mondays September 30th (St Joseph's), October 28th and November 25th (both in the Davenport Room).

The meeting closed with the *Pax Christi* prayer.