

Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington

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

Meeting 132

November 26th, 2018

Notes

Those present were: Jenny Armstrong, Brian Austin, Janice Austin, Christa-Maria Cross, Wilf Feely, Richard Gordon and Jonathan Holden.

Apologies: Anne Elson, Lynda Gould and Diana O'Reilly.

The meeting opened with the SPAN prayer and a reflection on the gospel for the 1st Sunday of Advent (Year C), Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36.

1. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 30th October.**

- Jenny had passed on to Fr John the wording of the notice outside the RC church of the Holy Name in Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne provided by Anne Kirby: 'Young or old, married, single or divorced – and whatever your sexuality – there is a place for you in our parish'. She was awaiting a reply from Fr John.
- Janice was thanked for her work in revising the Justice & Peace Programme for 2019, which she tabled. An additional date which was noted was the Birmingham J&P Commission Lenten Retreat on Saturday 16th March in Selly Park Convent.
- Following the discussion on renaming these meetings 'Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington', Fr John and Fr Andy were in favour of the new name and of holding the meetings in all the three churches. Since the meeting could not be on the same day of the week in each church, it was decided to start in 2019 with six meetings in St Peter's and two each in Our Lady's and St Joseph's. Jenny said she had already booked the Davenport Room for Monday 21st January.

Jenny to book rooms in each parish accordingly for February to July and September to November 2019 accordingly.

2. **Rosary intention for December.**

- 'We pray for homeless people and for those in danger of losing their homes during this winter season.'

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 Fr John and Lieutenants Kelsey and Jessica Pearce had met and renewed their commitment to the partnership agreement between the Salvation Army and the (renamed) **Catholic Leamington Saturday Friendship Group**. She reported that Lisa, the Project Worker, had left the Way Ahead Project to take up a position in the Walsgrove House hostel.
- Richard described the '**Vinny packs**' of thermal clothing for homeless people produced by the Westminster branch of St Vincent de Paul and available at £4 a pack or £40 for a box of 10, and said the SFG could purchase them from Our Lady's SVP through him. Jenny and Janice agreed to buy an initial box of 10 for the SFG to distribute.
- Janice announced that she had stepped down from the **Warwick District Poverty Forum**. The question was raised of how the parish and organisations like the SFG could continue to access the Poverty Forum Directory of Local Services as it was updated from time to time. Brian believed it would remain available through the Warwickshire C A V A website (though it was not clear where on that website it could be found).

4. **Preparations for Advent and Christmas**

- Brian had contacted the Parish Office to discover that the **CAFOD World Gifts** catalogues had already arrived and been placed at the back of the churches. He recommended that, at the end of each mass, J&P supporters should take a handful and offer them to people going out.

Brian to put a notice in the Newsletter about them, and Jonathan to report them on the J&P website page.

- Jenny reported that her **sale at home of Fair Trade cards and gifts** had realised £240 for Traidcraft and £340 for the King's Table. There would be a Fair Trade stall at Our Lady's after masses on 8th and 9th December. She said that Traidcraft would continue retail sales next year but with a more limited range of goods.

5. **Peace Sunday (20th January)**

- Brian had a few Pax Christi leaflets containing the Pope's New Year peace message (on political activity for peace) and relevant liturgical resources on which he will draw to suggest to our clergy a penitential rite, bidding prayers and possibly other prayers or hymns. There was discussion of providing prayers and reflections for private use during the holy hour that Sunday. An alternative, given that Peace Sunday falls within the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January) which this year is on the theme 'Justice and only justice you shall pursue' (Dt 16: 18-20), would be an ecumenical prayer service (without exposition). It would need more work to prepare, but resources are available from the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity websites. Such services have been well supported in the past.

Brian to research and prepare both mass liturgy items and (if practicable) an ecumenical prayer service; additional helpers welcome, especially with the prayer service.

6. **Lenten Stations of the Cross**

- It was agreed to hold a meeting at **2 pm on Wednesday 16 January in St Peter's Sacristy** (subject to its availability) to review the existing stock of pictures and reflections.

All those interested in helping prepare the new Stations please attend this meeting.

7. **Climate Change (MP's visit)**

- Brian said that Matt Western's office had offered a meeting with him on Thursday 28 February.

Brian to book a venue for 7 pm and agree the meeting with his office.

8. **Any Other Business**

- Jenny reported that the **LiveSimply mass** at Our Lady's had gone off well. Brian praised in particular the offertory procession of gifts representing activities of all three churches with an explanation of each one by Deacon David. The Hand-in-Hand reflection was also approved.
- Brian had sent the **ACAT list of prisoners of conscience**, reordered into Christian and non-Christian addressees, for circulation to those who might want to send cards at Christmas, although the parish card signing had been postponed till next Easter.

7. **Future Meetings**

- The first meeting of 2019 will be at 7.30 pm in the Davenport Room on Monday January 21st, when the reflection will be on the gospel for the 3rd Sunday in Year C, Luke 1: 1-4; 4: 14-23.

The meeting closed with the *Pax Christi* prayer.