

Justice and Peace in Catholic Leamington

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

Meeting 136

April 29th, 2019, at St Joseph's

Notes

Those present were: Jenny Armstrong, Brian Austin, Janice Austin, Christa-Maria Cross, Anne Elson, Wilf Feely, Richard Gordon, Lynda Gould, Anne Kirby, Michael Kirby, Diana O'Neill and Jonathan Holden.

Apologies: Amy Cawood, Fr Andy Franklin, Anna Godwin and Mary Wilde.

The meeting opened with the SPAN prayer and a reflection on the gospel for the third Sunday of Easter (Year C), John 21: 1-19.

1. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 29th April meeting at Our Lady's

- Diana questioned whether we should continue to use the term '**prisoners of conscience**' since there is now an organization called 'Prisoners of Conscience' with which we have no connection, whereas we get our list of people to send cards to mainly from 'Action of Christians Against Torture'. After discussion it was felt that the term 'prisoners of conscience' (no capital letters) more accurately described the people we were sending cards to than 'victims of torture', and that it was difficult to think of a better brief way of describing people in this situation.
- She reported that the **card signing** went well, having posted 116 cards with a surplus from donations of £25.50: it was agreed that this should be sent to ACAT. The activity at St Joseph's was particularly busy, and coincided with the visit of Bishop Kenny to the parish.
- The meeting thanked the St Joseph's Arts Society for all their work in providing the beautiful cards at their own expense. Rather than ask them to make such a donation every year, Richard offered to ask the 'mini-vinnies' (members of St Vincent de Paul Society at St Teresa's Primary School), who he said were very artistic, if they might provide the cards next year.

Richard to discuss it at his visit to the school next week, bringing examples of the St Joseph's Arts Group cards.

- Brian noted that there were fewer people at the J&P Stations of the Cross in Lent this year than in previous years, possibly because there were six liturgies of the Stations each week at the three churches of Catholic Leamington, including one at exactly the same time each Wednesday at Our Lady's. He wondered whether we should continue doing them in this form in future years. Anne Kirby said the children's Stations run by Amy Cawood on Good Friday at St Joseph's were very well attended, and 40 people attended the meal following them, donating a total of £125. Wilf noted that a parishioner planned to lead a 'Family Stations' at St Peter's on the first Friday of every month, starting 3rd May, according to the current Newsletter. It was agreed to review our plans before Lent next year.

2. Rosary intention for May.

- Referring to the Easter Sunday atrocity, it was agreed that the April intention should be: '**We pray for bereaved families of Sri Lanka suffering as a result of terrorism**'.

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

- Brian reported that about 18 people were dropping in to the Salvation Army Centre each day in April, and that more people were wanting to attend the Saturday morning sessions than the limited number they could accommodate; in the period April 2018 to March 2019, 430 separate individuals had dropped in. Janice said they always needed more volunteers.
- Richard said he had been on a very good 'relationship breakdown' course given by the National Homelessness Advice Service to representatives of registered charities in this field, at which he had learnt that despite its complexity housing law does contain protections for tenants if you know their way round it. He wondered whether volunteers of the Way Ahead Project or the Leamington Night Shelter would be interested in attending such courses in order to give legal

advice to people who need it, with a support (to the volunteer) of a helpline. Brian thought Yvonne McKinnon should be informed of it. Richard said he planned to visit local organizations who might benefit from it.

4. **Ecofest and CAFOD/LiveSimply walk on 5th and 6th May**

- Jenny reminded those present that the Ecofest in the Pump Room Gardens the next Sunday would include a number of stalls for environmentally friendly organizations (including LiveSimply) as well as music and an exhibition of electric cars; the 2-mile walk on Bank Holiday Monday would start at 3 pm at the Newbold Comyn Arms car park and include stops for brief stories of refugees or migrants.

Jenny to announce both items in the Newsletter.

5. **Climate Change actions.**

- Brian and Jenny were travelling to London by train (rather than by the CAFOD coach) on Wednesday 26th June for the Climate Coalition 'The Time is Now' mass lobby of MPs in Westminster, and invited any others interested to contact them for travel details.

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

- Brian said the organizers were aware of our requests but had yet to confirm they could be met; for instance they do not plan to have a printed programme for the Festival. He could do one of the talks; Richard would think whether he could do the other talk.

Brian to provide Richard with an outline used in the past.

- Jean Daly had contacted him to confirm she would run the refreshments in church. Emma Rayment was positive about her youth group providing a display. Anne Elson (responsible for the Warwick District Faiths Forum stall) wanted to know from each church what they were doing for people's 'well-being'; various activities of Catholic Leamington were put forward for her to note.

7. **Any Other Business**

- There was discussion of whether we could contribute to the '**Praise in the Park**' liturgy on Pentecost Sunday; unlike many other churches, we could not give up our Sunday morning masses to join the ecumenical liturgy taking place at the same time in the Pump Room Gardens. It was understood that St Paul's were not organizing the event this year – we needed to know who was organizing it and its form.
- Brian noted that last year we had special liturgies to mark the beginning and end of the Season of Creation (1 September to 4 October) but nothing during the season. This year we have the CaFE material which was not ready in time last year, which we might use if suitable.

Brian to review the material and report back on it.

- Anne Kirby asked whether anything had resulted from her suggestion at the Review of the Year meeting on 4 September 2018 that parish noticeboards and newsletters should contain a note of 'Welcome' like the church in Newcastle she had visited. Jenny replied that she had emailed Fr John and the Chair of the PPC on the subject but had not received a reply.

8. **Future Meetings**

- The next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on **Monday May 20th** in the Davenport Room at **St Peter's**, and the reflection will be on the gospel for the Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year C), John 14: 23-29.
- Subsequent meetings will be at 7.30 pm on Monday June 24th (Davenport Room), 7.30 pm on Monday 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.