**The Roman Catholic Parish of Ss. Peter & Michael**

 **Woolston in the Warrington and Widnes Deanery** 

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council**

**Monday 10th July 2023 at 7.00pm**

**Present**:

J L G (Chair); Fr. M D; M F (Secretary); C G; T H; G A; T F; P D; C W; T O; V M; M H 2; J W

**1 Welcome and Opening Prayer**

J L G welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the opening prayer.

**2 Apologies**

M H 1; T W; G T; J M; J J G; K L

**3 Chair Introduction and Matters Arising From Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th June 2023 was accepted by the Parish Council. There were no matters arising except those featured on the agenda.

**4 Liturgy**

J M had sent a note that said that weekend Mass attendances in June 2023 were an average of 133 parishioners attending Mass, down 7% on both May 2023 and May 2022. In the note J M said the attendances were only about 60% of pre Covid-19 levels. The numbers for July are looking similar. Fr. M D said this fall in numbers attending Mass was consistent with the fall in the numbers of attendance figures at other parishes in the deanery.

In his note J M added that Padgate Walking Day went very well with quite a few more parishioners walking with us than they did last year, and the hot weather brought the crowds out in numbers. The special second collection, raised £156 which went towards the contribution that the parish made to the school to offset the costs incurred on the day.

The confirmations that took place last Sunday at St. Oswald's went well with six of our parishioners being confirmed.

A number of parishioners were asking about restarting the Sunday school. Fr. M D said that to assess demand from parents and ask for assistance with running the Little Church during Sunday Mass, a note should be put in the weekly church bulletin. To start with the Little Church could be held once a month and then this could be reviewed depending on how demand developed.

**5 Parish trip to Lourdes**

This year is the Liverpool Archdiocesan Centenary Pilgrimage to Lourdes. G A confirmed that all arrangements for the parish pilgrimage on 21st – 28th July 2023 were now in place including the travel arrangements for the parishioners regarding their transfer from the church to Manchester Airport on the departure and return dates.

**6 World Day for Grandparents and Elderly**

The World Day for Grandparents and Elderly is on Sunday, 23rd July 2023, celebrating Sts. Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.  Pope Francis has chosen “His mercy is from age to age,” a passage from the Gospel of Luke, as the theme for the 2023 celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

J L G said the Parish Council should download the posters and flyers on the website dedicated to this celebration and if they are suitable to be put up in the porch at the back of church. The children’s prayers could also be put on the church website and V M agreed to follow up the collection of the prayers on Friday, 14th July 2023 when she visits the school. M H 2 also agreed to read the Rosary before Mass on Wednesday, 19th July 2023, in preparation for the day.

**7 Season of Creation 2023**

The Symbol for the Season of Creation 2023 is the river of Justice and Peace. The Season commences on Friday, 1st September 2023 and ends on 4th October 2023. The Season of Creation calls for making peace with the earth and changing attitudes and actions to deal with the loss of biodiversity and a changing climate.

Last year the Parish Council successfully encouraged recycling of electrical products. M H 2 suggested something similar this year with a request to parishioners to volunteer to help with recycling at local retailers. A request for recyclables could also be made to be collected during September and October 2023. A request for recyclables would be made in the church bulletin for 14th August 2023, so that donations would start to be received in the period of the Season of Creation 2023.

There is tea and coffee and cakes on the lawn after Sunday Mass each week and local people, not necessarily those going to Mass, could be invited to participate in this social event, by word of mouth and on the parish website. As last year a request would be put in the church bulletin for photographs marking the theme for showing on the church screen.

**8 AOB**

Church Maintenance

The next church maintenance working party will be held weather permitting after Mass on Tuesday, 11th July 2023.

The quotes for changes to the kitchen in the church house have proved too high for Fr. M D to approve. The dean, Rev Canon D H, has now asked the surveyor at LACE to arrange for quotes for the work.

Fr. M D

Fr. M D confirmed that he would be away from the parish one weekend in September 2023 and three weekends in October 2023. Suitable cover had been arranged for these weekends.

Retreat at Carmelite Monastery, Thicket Priory York

C W said parishioners were interested in visiting the Carmelite Monastery at Thicket Priory again this year for a retreat. The Parish Council agreed to put a note in the church bulletin and on the website to ask for those interested in going to put their names forward.

**9 Date of Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Millennium Room on Monday, 4th September 2023 at 7.00pm. The Agenda will be circulated before the meeting.

**10 Close**

The meeting closed at 8.05pm with a prayer led by Fr. M D.