# Record of the Third Parish Open Forum – 8th Nov 2016

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Fr Tony opened the meeting in prayer, welcomed those present. 43 people braved the wet chilly night to attend. | **Action Points** |
| **Dementia Spirituality – Declan Barry** shared some of the learning, and advised that further events are to be organised that will include the Pastoral Area and then CTiA. | Friday Dec 9th, 10am Dementia Friends invited to Prep/Planning  Invites to Pastoral Area & CTiA: 2pm Thurs 26th Jan, 10am Fri 27th both at SH |
| **Missionary Priority of Welcoming – Clare McConnell:** The Learning Community for Welcoming are developing actions. Among them a Mutual Visitation: joint Sunday morning mass 10am at SH on 11th Dec, to echo Mary’s visitation to Elizabeth and at SJS on 15th Jan. There will be a 3rd event, in Eastertide (date to be decided). Volunteers sought to arrange these.  There will be notices on church door advising where morning mass would be held on that Sunday. Evening masses unaffected. This action will contribute to our unity, viability and sustainability as a paired parish, and is in no way an indication of a threat of closure: the Archbishop is “not looking to force closure on any church that can support itself”  Additional Welcoming actions:   * we will use Advent to bring about different ways of welcoming God into our lives and each other * Welcome Pack to be updated to link Parish office communications | Volunteers required.  Easter date to be decided.  Begin advertising in Newsletter.  Continue the Learning Community actions |
| **Spirituality – Anne O’Callaghan:** The Living Christ Retreat on Fri 20th& Sat 21st Jan 2017 was introduced – a continuation of the Parish Mission of 2012, the Irenaeus Mission at Pentecost 2016. The Living Christ Retreat is an opportunity to deepen and develop one’s faith involving sharing of experience/friendly conversations about living the Faith. Those who have already been on this Retreat are asked to invite at least 1 other person to come, perhaps someone who wouldn’t normally come along.  Do take the opportunity as you attend other meetings to highlight this Retreat.  **Pastoral Area Plan – Gina Steed** At recent Southport Catholic Coordinating Group (SCCG) meeting, Fr Atli, as new Dean of Pastoral Area, asked us to revisit the Pastoral Area Plan, published 2 years ago, when it was a wake-up call “… to deepen our own faith, hope and love – to encourage the spirit of collaboration – to help us do better what we already do – make more effective use of resources, be flexible to local needs”. Mike Thornber retired from Pastoral Area Committee last year, Gina Steed retired this year. Gina gave heartfelt plea for volunteers from SJS & SH to join Bernie Cornett in representing us. We hosted two Pastoral Area events: WYA and Family Catechesis. HeartStone began RCIA Come & See for people thinking about becoming Catholics. Now we are to look at what is missing, what we should do next. Fr T invited everyone to discuss the question: “what we can do next year to improve the Catholic Church in Southport”.  **Suggestions to feed back to SCCG on 30th Nov**: recruit parish Deacons – all priests in all masses/parishes to “challenge all to do at least one extra thing this year that they don’t usually do” - pray more as part of our actions - open ourselves/build small communities within the Parishes, as the apostles did - engage young/younger people to do more in the parishes: Fr T to “beat the drum” at Christ the King school (in his new role as a Governor)  **Parish Priests Report**  Fr T asked for any comments on what had been received two weeks before:   1. Some people dislike “HeartStone”. Not compulsory to use HeartStone, but it’s an easy way to refer to both churches in one word. Many love it, and many outside the parish have commented favourably. Canonically: “paired parish of SH & SJS” 2. Be aware of Mental Health in all Welcoming meetings 3. Next year is 25th anniversary of CTiA, 50th anniversary of Metropolitan Cathedral, and 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. 4. Accompaniers essential for Christening & Eucharistic Teams.   **Accounts**  Fr T reported financial position of SH, SJS and SJS Club. Written accounts available.  **Agenda item** submitted by “poor parishioner” to “curb unnecessary spending”: Fr T agreed.  **SJS Club**: Club prices will rise in January. A parishioner asked can the Archdiocese close the Club: No, unless it is very much in the red (which it isn’t). Rumours that Club will close on a Monday (it was closed on 7th November) and that Emma is losing her job. **Fr T had written confirmation from the Archdiocese that this is not true**. Fr T asked that people direct Club concerns to the manager, Donna, who will communicate with the Parish Priest, or to the Archdiocese.  **Sunday bingo** attendance has fallen below a viable level, so Sunday bingo will stop. Bouquet presented to Irene for her years of hard work - she and her team served this event tirelessly.  **Parish Charities**  No additional suggestions received by published date. Annette informed us she had sent an email but it sadly did not get through.  Fr T informed the Forum that the Social Committee annual meeting approved ending support for Ishiara (jam-jars continue for those who wish), and recommended Parish chosen charities be reduced from 4 to 3, supporting for 2 years, donating money annually. Fr T mentioned Annette’s alternative proposals: NW Air Ambulance; Aid to Churches in Need (ACN), Clare House Hospice and Southport Spinal Unit.  Fr T recommended CAFOD for our International charity, as part of Catholic life; with regular special collections; many parishioners donate individually already. Combat Stress as a National charity. No other suggestions proposed for local charity.  After vital and engaging discussion, Fr T agreed to change to 2 local charities & 1 international, those present preferred ACN for International, Nugent Care for local, and Southport Hospital Spinal Unit for 2nd local charity.  Presentation in Club on 3rd December of £2,000 to Ishiara, HCPT, Jospice, Queenscourt. | Invite people to join the Living Christ Retreat.  Past participants invited to Scripture Group Wed 23rd Nov, 7.30pm and all welcome at GIFT meeting Tuesday 6th December at 7.30pm.  Recruit new reps for SCCG and for youth SCY  Feedback to Fr Atli and the SCCG, 30th November.  Meeting for those interested in being a deacon 7.30–9pm, Friday 25th Nov, St Wilfrid’s Pastoral Centre, Mayfield Road, Widnes, WA8 8PR  Accompaniers needed – please volunteer!  Wednesday Bingo continues: please support  Use suggestion boxes and Parish office communication for agenda items in future  Parish Priest to discern fully with Parish Vision Team and announce decisions of chosen charities.  Inform Parish Social Committee of new Parish charities at next meeting  Invitations now gone to local charity representatives |
| **Liturgy**  Team Meetings: Fr T very encouraged by the good contribution at the annual team meetings.  Prayers during Advent: there will be daily morning and evening prayers during Advent. Volunteers are needed for 9.15am and 6.30pm | Prayer of the Church, Fr T will consult further on evening time;  and volunteers for leading |
| **Agenda item submitted by (*signature indecipherable*):** Rosary in May & Oct: instead of morning prayer. Fr T decided to experiment.  Sung Alleluia after Gospel: Fr Albert started singing Alleluia after gospel: Fr T asked him to put it on this agenda.  Fr A explained that it supported the gospel, and reflects practice in Metropolitan Cathedral. Parishioners agreed it’s a good idea.  Christmas Services for SJS & SH announced (see newsletter and website). It has been decided to have a Christmas night mass at 9pm as fewer people come out to midnight mass now, and hope more will be able to come though Midnight Mass is a sad loss.  Peace Prayer: friendly & fierce discussion!! Gina explained parishioners spontaneously joined in the peace prayer at end of Falklands War; the practice is now parish tradition. Fr T declared people should continue joining in as they choose. | Rosary in May: if enough participation also in Oct.  To start immediately |
| Fr Tony closed the meeting in prayer at 21:15.  Provisional date of next Open Forum, Tuesday 13th June | |

If you have items for future meetings, please contribute them as items for the agenda, by email to the Parish Office ([heartstoneparish@btconnect.com](mailto:heartstoneparish@btconnect.com)), or in suggestions box in the church porches.

Agenda items received so far:

1. Parish Vision Update
2. Remembrance Sunday Service / Mass ??

*The Parish Open Forum is an important part of modern Catholic life which allows all Parishioners to participate in decision-making and helps priests ensure good decisions are made in the mission of the Parish.*