

**Blessed Robert Grissold  
Parish Pastoral Council  
Minutes of Meeting Held 19<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

**Present:** Fr Sebastian, Chris Burleigh, Ian Clarke, Joe Martin, Bridie McSorely, Dominic Green, Maureen Carroll, Ann Santos,  
Apologies: Godfrey Chesshire, Margaret Collins, Chris Mitchell

The meeting opened with a short prayer.

Father distributed an agenda.

It was noted that the July meeting had to be cancelled due to Father's illness in Rome.

Chris read out the minutes from the previous meeting. Minutes will be sent electronically for any members with email, and a printed copy will be placed on the notice board. Highlights will be placed in the bulletin.

It was agreed the children's First Holy Communion celebration had gone well, and the Blessed Robert Grissold celebration was well organised.

Tea and coffee is working well and people are mixing.

Father agreed and expressed a hope that even more to would be organised. There is a need to put more family spirit into the parish, such as the previously discussed Welcome Sunday. We should bring to Father's attention anything we can see that we think needs to be improved.

Father identified four areas, and these were o the agenda: Financial, Community, Faith Formation, and Charity Services.

#### Financial

Joe reported on the findings of the Financial Committee. We have a deficit for the year of £3000. A discussion took place on fund raising activities. It is hoped there might be another St. Patrick's night meal, a Christmas raffle, the 100 club could be revived. We need to have an appeal during Mass to increase the weekly giving. The field brings in nothing but saves us £3000 because the football club pays for cutting the grass. Ian expressed a view the best hope for increasing the weekly collection was with a stark appeal about the realities of the running costs – we should not be reliant on the extra fund raising for the basic costs of the church. Anne Santos suggested we need to have a visual target for people to see. Ian and Chris suggested we show budget and income in the bulletin each month so everybody can see whether we are ahead or behind our annual target.

The meeting decided to focus on what could be done before Christmas? It may be possible to hold a quiz night with a fish and chip supper. Joe would approach Bob and Kathy Jones, as they had previously expressed a willingness to run a quiz. It was suggested £7.50 including supper might be a reasonable charge. Joe and Ian agreed to organise a bar.

Chris agreed to restart the 100 Club, and it was suggested another person should assist with this. John McClelland has expressed an interest in becoming involved in some parish activities and Chris agreed to invite John to help with the 100 Club.

Christmas raffle. Bridie agreed to approach people for raffle prize donations. Joe would get tickets printed. Father would check with Fr Sharp whether he was licensed to promote a raffle. The draw could take place after the Carol Service

### Liturgical

Chris reported that he had seen all the children involved in the last hymn at Mass at other churches, by gathering around the guitar group and playing shaking instruments, triangles and tambourines. Ian agreed to start this with the Quavers.

There is a need to get the notice board phone number changed so that enquiries got to Fr Sebastian rather than to Dorridge.

Chris highlighted the need for more servers. It was agreed that the best approach is for Father to ask individual families. We will need somebody who is CRB accredited to organise the servers.

Carol Service. Maureen would like assistance with organising the readers. She and Ian will co-ordinate readings and carols. The Carol Service will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30. Maureen will look for somebody to help her with the readings for future services.

Maureen ask how we could get the youth more involved? Father mentioned that he is organising 18 yr + youths to attend the Archbishop's youth meeting at the NIA. It was suggested we could ask young people to help with the readings, with an adult. Joe will ask Godfrey.

### Faith Formation.

'Café'. Fr will start this next year. Each session would last for 6-8 weeks. It will probably start early in the New Year, before Lent.

1<sup>st</sup> communion. 4 children. We need to run our own preparation now. Need teaching aid - £25, then each child buys their own book. Start earl Feb, 1<sup>st</sup> Confessions around Easter, then 1<sup>st</sup> communion in June. Ellie will take forward, and Bridie will assist. Need to advertise in bulletin for next year.

Charity services. We will continue to support the Columbans and Fr Ed in Peru.

AOB. Ian needs helpers for the Harvest Festival to organise the boxes.

14<sup>th</sup> October for Songs of Praise. We need to organise the refreshments. The donations to be shared between Fr's New Life Centre in Kerala, and Fr Ed's parish in Peru. Bridie will help with refreshments.

Ian suggested a book of remembrance for those who have died.

Chris Kearl has resigned with effect from the new year. We need to appeal for new musicians who are willing to assist on a rota basis. We will bring this issue to the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting. Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 8.00p.m.