

**Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge
and Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston**

Parish Forum

Thursday, 19th May 2011, Parish Centre

7:00pm, Gather for Tea & Biscuits

7:30pm, Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Forum

- **Welcome & Opening Prayer, & brief video of Bishop Michael**
- **Parish Finances** update from the Finance Committee
- **Food Bank Project** update from Urszula Chojnacka
- **Diocesan Council of Laity** discussion on Evangelisation and 19-month strategic planning consultation meetings (Ronald Haynes)
- **Review of the role and function of the Forum** (Steering Committee)
- **Parish Centre** update of recent developments (Richard Peroni)
- **Any Other Business** including matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting or the compendium of information below
- **Dates of next meetings**

The Parish Forum, organised and animated by its Steering Committee, is the instrument that our Parish has chosen to enhance the participation of all groups, communities and persons in our large and complex Parish, in the process of decision making. Not just tackling the challenges that we face, but trying to “dream” together our future at the service of all the people around us. It is important that all the groups and the varied communities that form the parish family: OLEM, Sawston, Ditton, Bar Hill, and Cambourne send participants to the Forum to make their needs and projects known.

We hope that gradually there will be greater involvement of everybody in the “building up of Christ’s body” to carry together Jesus’ mission of “bringing the good news to the poor and proclaiming God’s year of favour”.

The Steering Committee

Information from groups:

Justice and Peace Group

Clare Enright <clareenright@btinternet.com>

During Lent we ran a series of four evenings of study, discussion and campaigning focusing on issues of Peace. These sessions were devised by the Group and ran in St Laurence’s and St Philip Howard in addition to OLEM; in May we all met together and agreed we had found these evenings valuable.

We were privileged to be able use an unpublished Way of the Cross which had been written in Zimbabwe at our Friday slot in Lent. This was particularly well-received by the Zimbabweans in the congregation.

We continued to support lunchtime Prayers for Peace at Michaelhouse and the monthly Food Bank collection at OLEM. Our monthly Traidcraft stall continues on the second Sunday of each month after 9.30 and 10.45 Masses.

We would like to arrange more shared international meals and would like to ask the Forum whether Sunday evenings are the most appropriate time for these.

10.45 Coffee

Phil & Betty Hardy <philip.hardy@btinternet.com> / Cambridge 811566

Usually very well attended and especially pleasing to see our clergy quite regularly adding their support. As always we are constantly on the lookout for volunteers. The more we have, the less onerous it becomes. The ideal would be for everyone to be 'on shift' once every 2/3 months, and for the rest of the time being there putting the world to rights with friends and visitors alike. A big thanks to our teams who make it so successful.

Parish Centre

Richard Peroni <olempcm@yahoo.co.uk> / 07760 955324

It is almost 18 months since the Parish Centre re-opened after its refurbishment. It is also just over a year since I was appointed. It is appropriate to consider progress in the context of our stated aims, which are: 1) to provide a hub for all Parish social activity and 2) to make the Centre self-supporting.

There has been a 20% increase in the use of the Centre by Parish users (who are not charged), rising from a monthly average of 95 hours/month in the first quarter 2010, to 112 hrs per month in the first quarter this year.

Indeed, in the final quarter of 2010, the average was 139 hours/month.

Bookings continue to increase, with confirmed revenue already higher for the year-to-date than for the whole of 2010. The Centre is now used by Language Schools, a course for Midwives, non-Parish choirs amongst others, plus plenty of private bookings.

During last year, I reported to a Management Committee, but with my increase in working hours, it became more practical to report directly to Fr. Peter. However, three of the members of that committee (Neil Emery, Mary Nathan and Rae Byrne) still play an advisory role, and are heavily involved in event-planning for the Centre.

Any queries, please let me know.

OLEM Luncheon Club

Bernard Townshend <bernardandhanna@hotmail.com>

Luncheon Club is doing well, supported by parishioners from about five different parishes - planning three outings for the summer (7 July, 4 August and early September) with the new academic term starting in October - continuing at CRC in Kings Hedges - average attendance at between 45 to 50 - two course meal still £9 - finances sound - very supportive group.

Soulfood

Sandy Hobson <johnandsandyhobson@yahoo.co.uk>

The Walking in the Spirit Seminar went well. There were between 12 - 20 of us. It fluctuated each week with a trusty dozen making it to the end. It may have worked better had it started after Mass!

Due to the stringent closing of the church at 9.30 each Tuesday evening, Soulfood has now moved into the Parish Hall which will give us more time should the need for us to run over occur. We now meet on the 2nd and fourth Tuesday of each month at 8.00pm in the Hall.

We now hold a meeting on 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Church at St Laurence's, Milton Road, from 7.30 onwards, with exposition, praise, worship and prayer and we are planning a series of seminars to be run at St Laurence's, Called 'This Promise is for You'. The dates have not been decided upon yet.

We are also involved with 'Street Pastors' and prayer pastoring, which is ecumenical. It helps those who are in trouble on the streets of Cambridge during the weekends. It is a wonderful way of getting in touch with our youth and making a difference, when they are at their most vulnerable. We work from 9.30pm until 4.00am, when the night-clubs close and are either out patrolling or in St Andrew's Church praying into situations which are happening on the streets of our city. When we are out, we are in touch with the police, CCTV, para medics and of course, the prayer team. The crime rate in Cambridge has dropped dramatically because of it. Street Pastors are always looking for more help, so if you feel you might have a calling in this direction, please log on to 'Street Pastors, Cambridge' to find out more. If you haven't got a computer, call Sandy on 01954 780196.

Chris Jenkins, from Street Pastors, spoke on the subject when he visited the Justice and Peace Group during their meeting held on 16th May.

Diocesan Council of Laity

Ronald Haynes <ronaldhaynes@yahoo.com> / 01223 690089

The Council met on 7th May, thankfully with the Bishop still active (despite uncertainties of health!), and the theme was "Evangelisation" ('It's what the Church is for'). With the verse 'Go out to the whole world, make disciples of all nations', the Bishop emphasised that 'There can be no more important topic than this: it is the great summons of Jesus himself'. The discussion was around practical ideas for how we can better joyfully proclaim the Good News within our communities, not only in words, but in the way that we live the Gospel.

Remembering the Vatican II idea (Lumen Gentium, N.38) that: "Every individual lay person must stand before the world as a witness to the resurrection and life of the Lord Jesus, and as a sign that God lives.", there were suggestions for each parish to form a group of twelve people as an Evangelisation Team projecting the radiance of 'inner joy' to the outside world and spreading the Good News. Other practical ideas included either appointing a Communications Officer for each parish, as per the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, or perhaps forming communication teams, possibly shared in parish clusters or Deaneries.

A report and the Bishop's notes from that meeting are available at:

<http://www.theseecretnote.com/olem-olol>

The next Council meeting was set for 5th November 2011, with the topic: Trust and Transparency.

* 19-month strategic planning consultation meetings – A meeting to follow-up on our 28th October discussion is being planned with Dr. Oonagh O'Brien of The Margaret Beaufort Institute, hopefully for a Wednesday evening in June. More details will be available at the Web site above, and in the Bulletin. For more information or contributions to the Council or Consultation, please contact: Ronald Haynes <ronaldhaynes@yahoo.com> / (01223 690089)