

Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston **Community Open Forum**

Record of the fifth meeting of the OLOL Community Open Forum – 7th February 2024

Attendees: Father John and 25 parishioners were present. Three apologies for absence were received. The meeting was opened and closed with a prayer and covered a wide range of topics as follows:

Updates for items discussed at the October Meeting

Proposed Investment in the Hope into Action house in Sawston:

The legal processes involved with this matter have now been completed. A new tenant, a single mother, is moving into the house this week.

The Wednesday Club

The full programme for the year has now been agreed and continues with a visit to Anglesey Abbey on the 28th February. The Club usually meets on Wednesday afternoons and is open to all and may be contacted at 07837846697 or via email – patricia.morgan9904@gmail.com

Children's Liturgy, Catechism, and Events for Children

Amy Harrison sent a comprehensive report to the meeting describing the progress that is being made in relation to the above. Children's Liturgy is going well with dates specified for Children's Masses specified until July 2024. Catechism Classes have been arranged through until July 2024 as well. The curriculum for these classes will change slightly in September. Furthermore, monthly activities are being arranged for young people. Amy is proposing that the children and their parents arrange and organise the Christmas Bazaar. Attendees at the meeting offered their support. The Angels Children's Choir sang a special hymn at Mass on the 11th February. It is hoped to continue to develop the Choir, but more support and assistance is required to achieve this. The meeting asked that their thanks to Amy be recorded for the work that she is doing on their behalf. Furthermore, Amy will be running will be running a Women's Day of Creativity and Prayer on the 13th April.

Parish House Roof

A contractor has been appointed to undertake the required remedial work however a start date has yet to be agreed.

Older Peoples Christmas Lunch was enjoyed by 44 people at the Footprints Café in December.

The Parish WhatsApp Group now has 76 members. Feedback/suggestions concerning the Group is welcomed. Thanks were expressed to Magda for her initiative.

Parish Giving

There are 14 mandatory Second Collections planned for this year as well as several other second collections. The contributions to these collections have declined steeply in recent years. It was agreed that Parishioners would continue to be made aware of these collections by email as they become due as well as the various methods that are available to contribute to them. In general, any charity asking for the Parish's support is expected to be present in the Parish by way of an appeal or other activities. These matters will be re-visited later.

Adult Formation and Education in the Parish

Clare Watkins, Amy Harrison, and Kate Reilly have been collaborating to develop ideas relating to the above. It is proposed that a Lenten course concerned with the traditions and practice of prayer will take place over 5 weeks commencing on Tuesday 20th February. It has yet to be determined whether this course will take place via Zoom or in person. Further soundings will be taken to determine this in the coming days. Other topics suggested, which may be the subject of later events, include the Bible in Christian Life, Recalling Vatican II: its importance for today's Church and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Parish Events 2024

The Parish Quiz will take place on the 22nd of March 2024 and tickets are now available. The idea of a Parish Supper and/or a Curry Evening were welcomed but it was agreed that further consultation would take place with the wider parish community before arrangements are finalised. It was expected that these events would take place in May and/or July.

Looking Outward

It was agreed that the focus for social outreach fundraising in 2024 would be Mary's Meals including a Lenten sponsored Young People's Activity Project which will serve to ensure that 100 pupils at Chasera School in Zambia get a nutritious school dinner.

Other Matters raised at this Forum Meeting.

Health and Safety: The need to ensure that the Parish, its buildings, and equipment are compliant with various Health and Safety legislation was discussed. A small team has offered to think about how this may be achieved.

Meeting other Christians in our widespread Parish: Father John urged the meeting to think about how we may regularly engage with other Christians in different parts of our widespread Parish. The Steering Group will consider how this idea may be pursued and developed.

A Mass of Anointing will take place in the Parish on 23rd March at 2.00pm. Mass will be followed by refreshments and chat afterwards in the Hall.

Further Forum Meetings will take in 2024 on the 5th of June and the 2nd October 2024.