

Parish Finance Report and moving forward as a parish

The annual Parish Finance Report has been prepared; submitted to the Archdiocese; and considered by the parish Finance Committee. A summary of parish receipts and expenditure during 2020 is available on the parish website, together with the minutes of the last Finance Committee meeting.

During that meeting members of the Finance Committee approved a proposal from Fr Allen that alongside a reduced sized *Finance Committee* (fulfilling its current responsibilities and with Brain Devlin as Chair) there be established a new *Health and Safety Group* (Ian Pocock and A.N.Other) and an *Environment Group* (Andrew Jones and Jenifer Cummings) and the still to be established *oversight group for the Newman Community Centre*, aka Carpenter's Arms to work with Fr Allen and Kay O'Keefe (Manager of the Centre), aka Carpenter's Arms). In time additional groups might be established, for example *Outreach; Young Families; Catechesis and Continuing Formation*.

Each of these groups would have responsibility for working out a timetable for appropriately progressing their work, but would present a brief report of that work to each of the three meetings each year planned for a new parish group, perhaps to be called the Parish Engagement Group (PEG) which would enable all those involved to consider these various parish works, together with other matters of interest and concerned. One or more of these three meetings might also take the form of an open Parish-in-Council meeting, particularly where there was a single major matter to be considered.

Any views on this?

You are welcome to share them with Fr Allen.

Helping keep the parish solvent!

Our parish finances are not as strong as they might be. Here are some ways in which we *might* be able to help get things onto a better footing in 2021.

- If people can make their offering by Standing Order rather than directly in the Offertory basket, it helps the parish by giving us a more stable income across the year.
- If people can Gift Aid their offering (either using Standing Orders or Gift Aid envelopes) the parish can claim back 25p for every £1.00 you donate.
- The Parish 50/50 club is a valuable source of income for the parish (and for those lucky enough to win in the monthly draws!) If you have not joined why not think about it. **50% of the income comes to the parish and 50% goes out in prize money.**

Forms are available as you leave church for Standing Orders /Gift Aid and 50/50 club. They can also be downloaded from <http://bit.ly/2Yp1g4r> Completed forms can be posted to the parish office, or returned via the offertory basket at the entrance to the church.

Prayer & Discussion for Lent Fridays

Did you know that in 2018, one third of victims identified by the UK Modern Slavery Helpline were women?

Women in the Shadows is a new course for Lent, created by the Clewer Initiative to help shine a light on the suffering of marginalised women.

The course focuses on the different ways women and girls are exploited in the UK today.

Parish Zoom meeting each Friday of Lent from 26 Feb, at 12 noon. Full details at <http://bit.ly/39NydOi>

Looking after our Common Home

You may have seen a note on the parish blog about a draft Environmental Policy for the Archdiocese. Details here: <http://bit.ly/39R6Y5O>

A parish group has been set up to begin to help us all take up our responsibility for the challenge set forth by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*, On Care for Our Common Home for us to better care for the environment.

We would be really grateful if anyone who has experience of working in this area – professionally or just out of interest – would be so kind as to email the parish office. You may be interested in getting involved in the parish projects as they come forward but in any case it would be really helpful to be able to have a chat – your wisdom and experience might well help us from making avoidable mistakes.

Prayer at home but with the parish

Morning Prayer

Mon to Sat at 0830. This simple form of prayer is based on Scripture, especially the psalms – and is very easy to join in. All are welcome. *Zoom link available on the parish website home page. Click on the link between 8.25 and 8.30am and wait to be 'admitted'.*

Rosary

On Mondays at 7pm people come together to pray, in turn, one of the sets of the Mysteries. *The Zoom link is on the parish website home page. Click on the link between 6.55 and 7pm and wait to be 'admitted'.*

Prefer quiet prayer alone?

Why not make space for a daily reflection on Scripture? Perhaps continuing during the week to pray with the readings from for Sunday Mass, and provided in the newsletter. Or the Gospel of each day's Mass, which is posted on the parish Blog.

Finally we might see whether might increase our regular donation -which may have been at the same level over many years, even as the cost of living and incomes may rise. Sometimes we can increase our donation - and sometimes, of course, we made need to reduce it.

Whether or not you are able to offer any extra help to the parish at this time, thank you for considering it. And thank you for the help you do give.



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Together in Christ? Making use of Lent to help build up our sense of parish and our mission as Church

The Pandemic is just the latest of all sorts of atomising influences and tendencies that have been corrosive of healthy family and community life in our country. Over recent years it has been recognised that so many people are alone, without easy access to family and friends, and without substantial connections with others even in their neighbourhood that we now have a Government Minister for Loneliness!

The Church is not immune from these tendencies. Many have said that, after the worst of the Pandemic is over, we can expect fewer people to 'return to Church' because those who come for 'habit' will have broken the habit! This could drive us into decline. But it could also be a time when others recognise that the vitality proper to the Church, and the mission of the Church to be made still more evident by those of us who are Church and who want Church to thrive, and serve.

During Lent I wonder whether each of us could find time and energy to have a chat with others about some questions related to the Sunday Gospel, exploring something of the social implications of the Gospel.

You could have the conversation with anyone - other family members, colleagues at work; friends - either in person, or by phone, or on Zoom.

Mostly - given some of the questions - it will be easier to have the conversation with other Christians, but not difficult to explore them with non-Christians - and maybe the conversation will prove even more interesting! And having such a conversation seems impractical - itself, maybe, a sign of the sort of challenges we face, as individuals, and as Church - you are welcome to join in an open Zoom gathering with Fr Allen, each Sunday at 5pm. Details will be on the website and confirmed in the newsletter each week.

Clergy Training Fund

Thank you to all members of the parish who support CTF by monthly donations.

No-one has come replied to the request to be our parish Rep for CTF. So for the future all such donations need to be made by standing order rather than monthly envelope. *Forms available from Fr Allen.*

Those unable to do this are asked to set the money aside monthly, and to bring it to church for the annual collection to support the CTF. Thank you, and apologies for any inconvenience.

Keeping Safe at for Mass

Face coverings: Regulations require members of the congregation, aged 5 and over, to wear face-coverings over their nose and mouth throughout the time we are in church. *If you have an exemption certificate please confirm in advance with Fr Allen, so appropriate seating can be arranged for you (and to safeguard others.)*

Social distancing: Please keep a social distance of 1m from anyone not of your household. *If going into an empty bench, please sit in the middle space, and leave any remaining space on the aisle for the next to arrive. Do not make people climb over you to get into the bench.*

Thank you for your cooperation.

MASS DURING THE HEALTH CRISIS

On days when there is no public Mass (because no volunteers for stewarding/cleaning) Fr Allen celebrates Mass 'privately' in the church usually at 0830.

Day	Time	Notes
Sa 13	6pm	For the parish
Su 14	9am	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mary Brasil RIP (Leese) Eugene McWilliams RIP (McWilliams)
	11am	
M 15	10am	Ints Micallef and Hill families (Cummings)
T 16	10am	Michael Venables RIP (Sterling)
W 17	7am	Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word, with Ashes Mass: For the parish Mass: David McCormack RIP (Leese)
	10am	
	7pm	
Th 18		
F 19	7pm	Keith Nichols RD (Byrne)
Sa 20	6pm	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Michael Venables RD (Wilkinson)
Su 21	9am	Fr Joyce RIP (Byrne) For the
	11am	

Confessions COVID restrictions prevent confessions being heard in the church, or indoors. However, if you wish to celebrate Reconciliation please contact Fr Allen who will be happy to arrange a time and place (outdoors) to celebrate this sacrament of mercy with you.

Please pray for sick parishioners including Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for Mike O'Reilly, Lea Burke, and Michael Venables who died recently and for Chris Palgrave, Maureen Cleary, Mary McEvoy, David Meade, Fr McEvilly and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

The Introductory Rites

The Introductory Rites help the faithful to come together as one, establish communion and prepare themselves properly to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.

The Penitential Act

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

Hearing the word proclaimed in worship, the faithful again enter into the unending dialogue between God and the people of the covenant shared in Christ, a dialogue sealed as we share the Eucharistic food and drink. The proclamation of the word is essential to the Mass

A brief time of quiet after the readings allows those present to take the word of God to heart and begin to prepare a prayerful response to what we have heard.

Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprosy: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart: he must live outside the camp.'

Psalms 31(32):1-2,5,11

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile.

But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess
my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin.

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart.

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. *Alleluia!*

Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful (omitted at the Bishop's request)

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. It is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does, because at its heart is the real presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, continuing and making available his saving work among us.

The Offertory

There is no offertory collection at this time. Instead, you are invited to place your offerings in the basket at the entrance to the church as you arrive, or as you leave.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer, the centre and summit of the entire celebration is a memorial proclamation of praise and thanksgiving for God's work of salvation, a proclamation in which the Body and Blood of Christ are made present by the power of the Holy Spirit and the people are joined to Christ in offering his Sacrifice to the Father

The Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The mystery of faith.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

Eating and drinking together of the Lord's Body and Blood in a Paschal meal is the culmination of the Eucharist. The themes underlying these rites are mutual love and reconciliation. These are the condition and the fruit of worthy communion and the unity of the many in the One.

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Please observe the regulations on social distancing when processing to receive Holy Communion.

As you approach the minister, please do so with arms at "full stretch" to keep a good distance between you.

Communion will be given silently, and in the hand only. (Your hands - palms upwards, one of top of the other - should be extended as flatly as possible.)

Prayer after Communion

The Concluding Rites

The brief Concluding Rite sends the people forth to put

into effect in their daily lives the Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection and the unity in Christ which they have celebrated. Their mission is to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.

Blessing and Dismissal

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Baptism

The present lockdown has put a temporary stay on the celebration of baptisms in our parish.

However parents are invited to join with Fr Allen for a Zoom baptism Preparation session at 11am on Saturday 27 February. *This will help them be ready to confirm a date for the baptism of their child as soon as the present restrictions are lifted.*

Parents who have not already booked a place on the session are invited to e-mail Fr Allen as soon as possible to secure a place.

Funeral of Michael Venables.

Funerals are currently limited to 30 people in total because of COVID regulations. The family of Michael Venables are kindly making a number of places at his funeral mass available to parishioners. The funeral Mass will take place at 10am on Monday 8th March. To reserve a place please speak with Fr Allen.

Global Healing

Thursdays from 18 Feb – 25 March 7.30pm – 8.30pm

In light of the environmental crisis our world is facing, Pope Francis has called each of us to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. This Lent, join a series of reflective evenings with inspiring speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resource *Global Healing*. These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis' call to *Care for Our Common Home*. Suitable for all who are concerned about what is happening to our world and who want to take action.

Free sign up here: <http://bit.ly/2MW60MF>

New on Parish Blog for 2021

Weekly mini-essays exploring the Eucharist. Origins and influences on the Mass; exploring particular prayers; and looking at how we celebrate - and how we might celebrate more fruitfully...

www.stnicholasboldmere.wordpress.com

This week take a look at Eucharistic Prayer II and the various parts that go to make up the prayer.