

Liturgy Group 27th January 2025

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Fr. Greg, Karen Morris, Jenny Gallagher, Alicia Tindal, Anne McKelvie, Mary McGinley, Alan Morris, David Londen, Mary McKenzie

Apologies: Clare Thomson

1. Fr Greg opened the meeting with a prayer and word of welcome, noting that this shared approach to preparing and celebrating our liturgies is something he is particularly keen to encourage.
2. **Review Advent and Christmas liturgies:** *what went well, what can we learn, what might we do differently?*
 - Penitential service was excellent – very positive numbers of people joining, and the elements of prayer and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament were thought to be particular highlights.
 - Christmas services went beautifully and everyone was encouraged by the very high numbers attending.
 - Re-introduction of the ‘Crib Offerings’ was seen as positive and resulted in a good contribution to St. Margaret’s Children & Family Care.
 - Discussion on the position of the crib – could it be placed in front of the altar in future years? Need to measure up to make sure there is sufficient space and it would be safe. Could consider option of a smaller Nativity scene in front of the altar in addition to the larger scene in the usual place. *Anne offered use of figures.*
 - Processing with the Advent Candle seemed to work well and people were happy to be involved in this. However, doing this at the beginning of Mass might be better and give more focus to the Advent wreath/candle.
3. **Review of Family masses and coffee mornings**
 - Very positive feedback on the success of the first family mass and, especially, the active involvement of the children. It was great to see the church so full, with many families attending.
 - Coffee mornings continue to be well-received and well-attended.
 - Fr Greg is speaking with the school about further involvement, including establishing a children’s choir with the school.
4. **Lent and Easter liturgies and services.**

Fr. Greg noted he is keen to see the full liturgical year celebrated in the ways which have become the norm before seeking to make any changes, so largely looking to repeat what has happened previously during Lent and Easter. However, we have to be mindful of the need to serve Rosneath as well as Helensburgh.

 - Ash Wednesday:
 - Mass at 10am (which will be attended by the primary school) and 6pm at St Joseph’s, then at 7.30pm in Rosneath.

- Lent:
 - Stations of the Cross each Monday at 7pm in St. Joseph's, ideally with the last service being outdoors in the garden.
 - Bible study group (led by Jenny) to meet each Monday at 2pm in the Chapel House
 - Penitential Service on Tuesday 8th April, following a similar format to that used during Advent.
- Palm Sunday
 - Blessing of Palms and reading of the Passion as usual.
- Maundy Thursday
 - Mass in St Joseph's at 7pm
 - Reintroduce washing of the feet – invite volunteers the week before
 - Prayer of re-commitment for all those involved in any kind of ministry
- Good Friday
 - Walk of Witness – Helensburgh Christian churches/ministers at mid-day(?)
 - Good Friday service at 3pm in St Joseph's
 - Evening service (based on 7 Last Words) at 7pm in St Joseph's
- Easter Vigil
 - 9pm in St Joseph's, starting with Pascal fire outside
- Easter Sunday
 - 9am in St Gildas'
 - 11am in St Joseph's
- We will compile a note of other Holy Week services and events, e.g. at the Cathedral or elsewhere in the Deanery, along with our own services for general information to the parish
- Fr Greg to offer provision of a minibus to bring parishioners from Rosneath to the Holy Week services in St Joseph's. Enquiries about availability and cost of mini-bus to be made.

5. Eucharistic Ministers

The need to ensure availability of a minister at all weekend masses (as a minimum) was discussed and it was agreed that we should ensure the responsibility doesn't rest solely with one person.

Agreed to reintroduce a rota for this ministry.

Actions:

- Invitation in bulletin for all commissioned Eucharistic ministers who wish to be on the rota to make contact.
- Find someone to manage the rota
- Ensure co-ordination of rotas for readers, welcome ministry and Eucharistic ministers so that individuals are not expected to fulfil more than one role at any Mass.

6. Parish retreat/pilgrimage

Fr. Greg proposed we plan a day of retreat/pilgrimage for the parish one Saturday during Lent. Potential to use Carfin as a venue and arrange coach travel.

Actions:

- Fr Greg to contact Carfin to explore availability and costs
- Local coach companies to be contacted for a cost
- Share information via bulletin, noticeboard, etc. once details known.

7. AOB

- New lectionary psalms differ from those in the hymn book for many occasions. Need to explore whether an updated version of the psalm settings and music is available.
- The potential to install a display screen at the front of church to display responses, hymns, etc. was put forward for future consideration.
- Agreed that the notes of Liturgy Group meetings should be shared via the website and an open invitation to attend maintained.
- Date of next meeting: Monday 3rd March at 7pm in the Chapel House.