

2020 Lenten Project AGM & Charities Nomination Meeting

Sunday 24th November 2019 at 7.15pm

LENT DATES 2020

Ash Wednesday 26th February - Easter Sunday 12th April

1. Opening Prayer

Fr Ignatius opened the meeting with a prayer reflecting on the purpose of the Lenten Project.

2. Circulation of the Attendance List

There were 12 parishioners present as well as Fr Ignatius and Fr Joseph.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mary C. Taylor

4. Minutes of the 2019 Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes were agreed by those present to be an accurate record and there were no Matters Arising that were not already Agenda items.

5. Report from Chair on 2019 Lenten Project

The Parish has been very generous again in supporting the Lenten Project which made a **total of £15,552.37** (£13,583.20 last year)

21 separate events and activities were held with hundreds of people involved. I, personally felt that more people engaged this year.

- Thanks go to Elspeth Casey who led the **Sponsored Walk** from OLI to Worth Abbey and to the **Tolworth Tornadoes** who cycled to Worth Abbey and back on a very cold day. Absolutely incredible physical achievement and they raised over £2200. Well done.
- **The Lenten Boxes** again made a great contribution of about £3000.00
- Joe & Antoinette Sebastian organised a **Sri Lankan Night** which made a £1600
- Thank you to **OLI school** who raised £750 –(Thank You Mrs Robertson)
- Thanks again to Elspeth for organising the **Jumble Sale** which made £600
- The Syro Malabar Community held a **Southern Indian Night** - £2100
- **Grand Raffle Draw** – and to Elspeth who arranged for Greenfields Estate Agents to sponsor the event to the tune of £500 – the Raffle made £997
- George Hoskins and Heather for doing a **Quiz Night** £320
- **Table Top Sale** again thanks to Elspeth and all her helpers £1300
- UCM/KSC held a **Cake & Book Sale** made £500
- St Patrick's Day **Coffee morning** £76
- **Krispy Krème Sale** £180 – thank you.
- Sandra Batty for the annual **Bedding Plant Sale** - £105
- Allan Cook – **Film Night** £79 – Thank you.
- Thanks to **Noah's Ark** for £200
- J&P Group for the **Big Breakfast** £105
- **Maundy Thursday collection** £580
- **Gift Aid** made an additional £632 – well worth collecting

Special thanks too to:

Monica Tett for the Administration and Jonathan Lobb for being Treasurer

Marie-Helene & Allan Cook for the display boards and all those who hand out boxes do the counts afterwards.

A Vote of Thanks was recorded to Phil for all his hard work as Chair of the Project.

6. Report from the Treasurer on 2019 Project

A Financial Statement was circulated (a copy is available on the Website). A short discussion took place regarding the distribution of the monies and the timing. Jonathan explained that the delay was down to the Gift Aid been distributed some months after the Project ended. This should not be an issue next year as once the amount of recoverable Gift Aid on donations is known then the parish will send that amount with the other funds raised and recover it later. This will ensure that the chosen charities receive the money much sooner than at present.

Thanks had been received from the Charities supported.

7. Committee Posts and Work Sharing

Once again there were no prior notifications for the posts of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary/Administrator and all three current post holders were re-elected unanimously. Posters and boards advertising events will be prepared by Marie-Helene Cook. Please contact her if you are planning an event and especially if you are preparing your own posters as this prevents duplication.

- Banners will be put up and later taken down by Phil Townsend
- Boxes will be distributed and collected at all Masses by:
 - 6.30 pm Phil Townsend and family
 - 9.00 am George Hoskins & Elspeth Casey
 - 11.00 am Mary C Taylor
 - 6.00 pm Jonathan Lobb
- **If you would like to arrange an event or help others to do so, please contact the Parish Secretary, Denise Kidd, via email (as this makes it easier to keep a record of events) at tolworth@rcaos.org.uk**
- There are plenty of dates available and we would welcome any support you can give and especially any suggestions for new events we can hold.
- So far we have been informed about the following events which will be held:
 - Southern Indian Night (Syro-Malabar Community)
 - Afro-Caribbean Evening with Music and Dance (Fr Ignatius)
 - Quiz Night (George Hoskins)
 - Table Top Sale (Elspeth Casey)
 - Sri Lankan Evening (Joe & Antionette Sebastian)
 - Sponsored Walk / Cycle Ride (awaits details)Further details will be notified in the Newsletter

8. Charity Nominations

There were 6 Nominations and all those who proposed them spoke about the various projects. In line with agreed policy a maximum of 4 Charities would be supported each year so Voting took place and the successful projects were:

❖ **ANTONYPURAM J/254 Palaly North ---SRI LANKA**

The aim is to improve the nutritional standards of the 55 children in Grades 1-5 and 116 in Grades 6-11 who attend Evening Classes conducted by the Parish priest of Oorani and the parish committee. The children are largely malnourished due their family's poverty. A nutritious mix of various flours and rice is added to coconut and some sugar. The cost for each child per day is about 60 Rupees (27p) 147 families live in the area of Antonympuram which was a resettlement village many years ago after the Civil War in the area ended

❖ **DIVYA CHHAYA SOCIETY SUBIR, GUJARAT --- INDIA**

The Carmelite Sisters of Charity originated in Spain and the congregation was established in India in the year 1953. The sisters are actively involved in education, health care, and other social activities in five states of India. We are working for the improvement of tribal people and the people of other classes of Maharashtra, **Gujarat**, Rajasthan, Karnataka and North East States of India. More than 70 % of the population falls below the poverty line, except for few who are employed in forest, corporate and government service. The majority of them are farmers, cultivating rice, nagli, guvar, using primitive tools and methods. The houses basically are made with wooden pillars, bamboo walls plastered with mud and cow dung.

The district of **Dangs** tops all the other districts of Gujarat in low literacy rate, malnutrition, morbidity and mortality rate and superstitions due to socio- economic backwardness. The Sisters aimed at improving the quality of life of the people through health care, education and empowerment of women. Patients who needed advanced medical care were referred to Surat or Valsad which is about 120 to 150kms distance. A woman in labour with complications, and children were at risk as they are the most vulnerable group. The whole scenario changed in 2014 with the arrival of a medical doctor to the mission of Subir. All chronic ailments like diabetes and heart cases receive appropriate care. The women with complications and children receive timely and affordable care. They also collaborated in the works of socio- pastoral with the Jesuits. They started the boarding centre for those who went to the Jesuits run school and self-employment course like tailoring for the girls who are drop outs from the school mainly because of poverty.

The **Divya Chhaya Hospital** attends to an average 100 patients per day in the Outpatients and 30 to 40 patients in the Inpatient departments.

So, the need of the time is **an ICU bed for critical cases, medicines for the poor patients** because people can hardly afford to pay for the services. Another need is **a reagents for the laboratory** since people don't pay for the investigations and a biochemistry machine for the laboratory which can do few important tests like Hb1c, thyroid function test and some hormone tests. The hospital charges a minimum amount for medicines from those patients who are able and willing to pay and all other are not charged. The hospital is run with the help of donations.

❖ **OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PILGRIMAGE CENTRE IBOM STATE --- NIGERIA**

The Shrine was donated in 1999 to the Church and has served as a place of pilgrimage to Catholics across three nearby Dioceses (Uyo, Ikot Ekpene, and Calabar). The Sanctuary provides counselling and spiritual accompaniments to the Catholics and non-Catholics in the area, especially sick people.

Large numbers travel long distances and may stay at the Shrine for a period ranging from a few days to one month or more. Some of them lodge with parishioners or friends in the village, but majority of them stay in make-shift accommodation on the Church grounds, some sleeping on the floor with some sleeping materials. Without adequate accommodation facilities on the grounds, there is a growing health and environmental problem especially with disposal of human waste. Some of the means are very degrading and have severely polluted the neighbouring environment, thereby, provoking conflicts between the Church and local residents. As result, sometime last year, the local Church decided to build shower rooms and toilet facilities. However, due to lack of adequate funding, the project has now been suspended. A donation from the Lenten Project would help them to resume work and complete the project before the end of next year.

❖ **LET THE CHILDREN LIVE ---Colombia**

Let the Children Live! is a charity that works in Colombia with children from the streets and shantytowns of the city of Medellín. These children were once called 'the disposable ones' and although that name is no longer used, they are still at high social risk from the violence that they experience in the streets and shanty-towns of cities such as Medellín. Most of the danger in the shantytowns comes from the many gangs (or bandas) that control them. Let the Children Live! is at present working with 320 very vulnerable boys and girls in this city. For most of them it is their last hope. Their ages range from babies to teenagers and they are often unloved and unwanted; even beaten, robbed, raped and sometimes murdered. By the

rest of the world they are either unknown or forgotten. The charity, which was founded by Fr Peter Walters, aims to safeguard the lives of these children from the poverty and violence of the streets and shanty towns, and to make their lives worth living by giving them love, education and a future.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items raised under this heading

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A Meeting will be held on a date to be arranged to discuss the Distribution of the monies collected (probably in June 2020)

11. The Meeting closed with prayers led by Fr Ignatius at 8.40pm