

## **2020 Lenten Project AGM & Charities Nomination Meeting**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7.00pm by Zoom**

**LENT DATES 2021: Ash Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Easter Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

### **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 9 parishioners present as well as Fr Ignatius and Fr Joseph.

### **3. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Monica Tett

### **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 £14,106.32. Which, given Coronavirus and the fact that many planned events did not take place is truly amazing. Well done to everyone who took part. Previous year was £15,552.37.

We still managed 13 separate events and activities.

- Joe & Antoinette did a Sri Lankan Night which made a fantastic £1455.
  - Thank you to the Tolworth Trekkers led by Fr Ignatius which raised over £4000. In particular thank you to Rob Coker and family.
  - People did return boxes which amounted to £2774.
  - Fantastic Table Top sale organised by Elspeth making over £1500 – thank you to the Jackson family too for their generous donations of quality items.
  - Unfortunately we were not able to have the Southern Indian Night but the Syro Malabar Community generously donated over £1500. Thank you.
  - Thank you too to the Butcher family for donating the collection from Rosemary's funeral. £ 325.
  - We were unable to complete the draw despite having all the tickets printed. £78 donated and refunds offered.
  - Thank you to Mary Taylor who still did a mini plant sale in her street and made £26. Every bit helps.
  - The Knights and UCM donated £602 for various activities.
  - Thank you too for the Krispy Crème sale which made £173.
  - Thanks also to:  
Monica for the administration.  
Jonathan for being Treasurer  
Marie-Helene & Allan Cook for the display boards  
Anyone I've missed – Thank you.
- A Vote of Thanks was recorded to Phil for all his hard work as Chair of the Project.

## 6. Report from the Treasurer on 2020 Lenten Project

Jonathan explained that there had been a £700 opening balance from the prior year, larger than usual as the result of a bank error. This was used to buy this year's boxes and to add to this year's distribution, bringing it up to £3,640 to each of the four charities. After distribution there is a balance on the account being carried forward of £1,861. This includes £1,779 received from the Diocese Just Giving Office that was not raised by the Parish and remains unallocated. Jonathan is communicating with the Diocese Finance Office with regarding this.

## 7. Committee Posts and Work Sharing

Once again there were no prior notifications for the posts of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary/Administrator. Phil Townsend and Jonathan Lobb agreed to carry on as respectively Chair and Treasurer for another year and were re-elected unanimously. It was suggested that the Admin was shared amongst us all until Monica Tett was ready / able to take over again.

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 Antoinette and Joe
  - 6.00 pm Jonathan Lobb

## 8. 2021 Charity of Events

- Given the current situation with COVID, we do not currently know how many events are possible / viable.
- Elspeth Casey agreed to organise a (socially distant) sponsored walk and Fr Ignatius and Fr Joseph agreed to participate.
- Another meeting will be arranged in January 2021 to discuss events.

## 9. Charity Nominations

There were 3 Nominations and all those who proposed them spoke about the various projects. It was agreed to adopt the 3 charities nominated. (One individual wanted to defer to see if any more charities came in, but the majority wanted to accept the 3 nominated). One more charity could be accepted at the meeting in January 2021, if one comes through.

The 3 adopted projects are as follows:

### ❖ **St Joseph's Boys Hostel - SRI LANKA**

There are 93 students living in the hostel. Some of them are newcomers, having relocated from their villages, due to the past war. Fr Vigintus has taken them under his wing and provided food, lodging and education. To educate the boys, extra coaching is needed because they are far behind in their studies due to their displacement. Extra tuition is being provided by outside teachers and Fr Vigintus is himself paying the tuition fees to the teachers. The support under the Lenten Project will help support the hostel and the extra tuition for the boys.

### ❖ **The Carmelite Sisters - SUDAN**

The Carmelite Sisters have been working in the Apostolate of Sudan for nearly 35 years. They have been involved in the Minor Seminary for formation, in the health service in villages and in pastoral work in parishes. Now, due to the special situation of the Sudan, they are reduced to one community in St Joseph Parish Kalakla, Khartoum South, Republic of Sudan. There are 4 sisters in the Carmelite Community, 2 of which work in a Health Centre (a Medical Clinic) and 2 of which work in a Village school of the Parish.

In Sudan, there is currently a very critical condition due to the instability of the economic situation. Everything is so dear that the poor are becoming poorer and poorer. Moreover, medicine is not available and sickness is not treated well. As a result, a lot of people are forced to die of simple sicknesses. The Carmelite Sisters do their best to provide the treatment in as qualitative a way as possible, even with natural medicines. The support under the Lenten Project will help the Carmelite Sisters with their work.

One issue, which was discussed at the AGM was how to get money to the Carmelite sisters. It was subsequently confirmed that Fr Martin of the Comboni Missionaries (Verona Fathers) was willing to transfer any funds raised to Sister Jose Linet of the Carmelite Sisters working in the Sudan.

It was also highlighted that we should only send monies that the Sisters can use immediately. Funds are not held in the Sudan because of the high rate of inflation (which reached a record peak of 212% per annum in September 2020).

❖ **The Cardinal Ekandem (Minor Seminary - NIGERIA)**

Cardinal Ekandem Seminary is a junior seminary in the Catholic Diocese of Uyo. It was established in 1976 and named after the first Anglophone African Cardinal, the Late Cardinal Dominic Ekandem. It provides qualitative secondary education to young boys, aged 10 to 17 years in view of nurturing vocations to the Catholic priesthood. Many of the alumni have been ordained as priests in and outside the diocese, and also as missionaries. Father Joseph (1996-2002) and Father Ignatius (1986-1992) are alumni of the Seminary.

At the moment, the seminary has 300 students, divided into 6 year groups. The current Rector of the Seminary is Father Ephraim Ukpe. He is an alumnus who graduated in 1984 and after subsequent training in the major seminary was ordained a priest in 1994. The support under the Lenten Project will provide much needed help to the Seminary.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items raised under this heading

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

A Meeting will be held in January 2021 to discuss events