

**St. Teilo's with Our Lady of Lourdes
Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, July 29th 2021
at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall**

PRESENT:

Fr. John Griffiths	President
Madeleine Walters	Chair
Helga Evans	Secretary
Claudiu Bulai	Angela Jones
JR Diaz	Christine Lewis
Paul Doherty.	Clare Loveluck

1. Opening Prayer

Fr. John said the Opening Prayer.

2. Welcome and Apologies

Madeleine welcomed everyone. She gave a very special welcome to Fr. John.
An apology was received from Gerry Lewis.

3. Minutes of the meeting on June 10th 2021 – matters raising

With one correction, Angela was not present at that meeting, the Minutes were approved as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

4. Introductions

Members of the Council introduced themselves and said what they did in the parish.

Madeleine Walters - has been Chair of the PAC for over twenty years; she is a Eucharistic Minister and a Reader. Madeleine proof reads the parish newsletter every week. She is also Director of Evangelisation for the Archdiocese and is one of the two Scripture Champions for the Archdiocese.

Helga Evans – was born in Germany and settled in Cardiff. She has been a parishioner at St. Teilo's for nearly 40 years. She has been a Eucharistic Minister for many years and Secretary for the PAC for 20 years. Helga organised the Cleaning Group, typed and printed the weekly Newsletter for many years until Gerry Lewis took over. In recent years, she has organised the annual trip to Belmont Abbey in May. She has been a key member of the Social Group. When Dick Dicketts sadly passed away, Helga took over.

Claudiu Bulai - is a Eucharistic Minister. He has been involved with organising the youth ministry together with JR.

JR Diaz – is very involved in the Music ministry in the parish. He has also been involved with organising the youth ministry together with Claudiu.

JR has been the Confirmation Catechist since 2019 and has seen one cohort through.

Angela Jones - has attended Mass at St. Teilo's for many years. She is a Eucharistic Minister and has prepared children for First Holy Communion over a number of years. She also leads the Children's Liturgy classes in more normal times.

Clare Loveluck

Clare is a First Holy Communion Catechist and helps with the Children's Liturgy. She also takes her turn on the flower rota for the Church.

Christine Lewis - after a few years of debating with herself, Christine became a Catholic twenty-three years ago. Christine is a Reader, a member of the cleaning group and for many years has looked after the garden.

Fr. John - Fr. John said that he had been a priest for thirty-eight years. He has served in Treorchy and Abertillery; he was six years in Caerphilly and until now, nine years in Cwmbran. He has also been a Trustee of the Archdiocese.

5. Sacramental Preparation

a). First Holy Communion

The first Holy Communion Catechists had given two sessions of two hours' preparation leading to the children receiving their First Holy Communion on Saturday, June 26th at 11am. Thirteen children received their First Holy Communion. One more child will receive hers when her grandparents are able to travel from Germany to be present. Angela said that they would wait until after Christmas to start preparing the next batch of children when they start attending Mass again.

b). Confirmation

JR said that there are approximately ten candidates to be prepared for Confirmation. He said that the class had had an Enrolment Mass and three sessions before the first lockdown. He planned to resume the classes on Monday, September 13th and continue them through October and the first weeks in November. Confirmation will take place at the 10am Mass on Sunday, November 21st 2021.

6. A Memorial for Canon Isaac - update

a). There was much discussion about the statue and the grotto. Several members thought it would be a good idea to have a grotto and statue in appreciation of all the priests who had served St. Teilo's and Our Lady of Lourdes. Fr. John suggested buying a bigger statue to make a grotto, about 2 metres in height. Claudiu offered to do some research. It was suggested that we make an appeal through the newsletter for funds to buy a statue. It was thought that parishioners would like to make a contribution in memory of their parents etc.

b). Clare had notified the Chair before the meeting that she would be mentioning the statue of the Sacred Heart. The statue is on the altar, having been cleaned and repaired. Canon Isaac had meant to have the names of the benefactors inscribed on a plaque. It was not known who the benefactors were. Who organised and paid for the repair etc.? It was agreed to ask David Roblin and/or Haydn, who may have a list of the benefactors.

7. President's Points

- Fr. John began by thanking all present for their very warm welcome. He said that everyone was doing fantastic work. He thanked those who had provided flowers for a recent funeral. He said he had praise and admiration for everyone's hard work.
- He went on to say that from experience he would prefer a 2-year cycle to evangelise and prepare the children. He recommends Reconciliation in the first year and Holy Communion in the second. There is a need to catechise the parents.
- For Baptism, he recommended sending a card on the anniversary of a child's Baptism, which may encourage parents to think about their faith. He said parents are not seen bringing their children to Mass. Cathy Hopkins is presently preparing parents for the Baptism of the children, covering all four Churches.
- In the Northern Arc, the majority of people attending the Baptism programme came from St. Philip Evans. During lockdown, there was not a great deal going on.

Catechists were just doing their own parishes. Fr. John said that perhaps we should just do our own though Canon Matthew Jones has expressed a willingness to come in with St. Teilo's.

- Fr. John mentioned something which, he said, had been very much appreciated in his previous parish. He used to have a quarterly Mass for bereaved parents. On the first Saturday in September, he would like to invite bereaved families to a Mass to let them know that we are “thinking of them, we love them and would like to see them.” Fr. John is interested in having monthly meetings for bereaved parents.
- Fr. John expressed his wish to introduce the Prayer of the Church - morning prayer before the morning Mass on Monday to Saturday and evening prayer before the evening Mass on Wednesday.

8. The Document on the Synodal Process from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

- Madeleine had sent out the document ‘The Synodal Process’, but with the acknowledgement that members would probably not have time to read it before the meeting.
- Claudiu did read it and offers the following excerpt from it.
The Synodal process refers to the ministry of the Bishop and his role to teach, sanctify and govern. It is a reference to the process of listening to everyone and deciding after.
Synodality means ‘walking together’ in a “particular way”
“Walking together” happens when the Bishop discerns the way of the Holy Spirit from the voices of the people and clergy. These will come from distinctive communities and the local Church and should speak about what matters in their situation. The ideas will be voiced into the conversation. Catholic organisations and charities should be involved as well as schools, young people. Chaplaincies and ecumenical and interreligious engagement should be encouraged. All these voices must be consolidated and submitted from each diocese.
- Madeleine thanked Claudiu and asked members to read the original paper so it can be discussed further at our next meeting.

9. Sharing of Minutes

Paul Doherty suggested that all Minutes from Parish Groups should be shared with the Parish Council, e.g. Finance, Buildings. Obviously, there will be confidential matters to be noted.

10. Rail

Paul agreed to research a hand rail for people who need support going up onto the altar, as it is dangerous for many people.

13. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 23rd at 7pm. It was agreed to hold meetings every other month.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.