

St Dunstan's Roman Catholic Church, Woking

Summary of the Open Parish Meeting, which took place on Sunday 4th June 2017 after the 5.30 pm Mass – Pentecost.

The meeting started with prayers for the victims of the terrorist attack in London, followed by a Reading from 1 Corinthians 12: 4-7, 12-13 and prayer to set the theme for the evening: “Pentecost – The Holy Spirit working through us”.

Presentations (opportunities for questions followed each presentation):

(a) **Aidan Cantwell** (diocesan advisor for Justice and Peace) gave an excellent presentation on the plight of **refugees** and how countries are responding, in particular he spoke of the work being undertaken throughout the diocese and thanked the parishioners of St Dunstan's for their substantial financial support and other help from individual parishioners.

(b) **Mark Potter** followed with an update of the way Woking Borough Council, together with Faith communities, have **resettled 11 Syrian families** and intend to offer more homes over a period of five years.

(c) **Tony Sims** gave a very informative presentation of the work of the **SVP** – not just in Woking but nationally and throughout the world. This year the SVP is celebrating 400 years since it was founded.

(d) **Joe Dunne** presented a summary of the **financial** state of the parish and showed a table of income and expenditure for the past five years. He also gave an update of how many parishioners are members of the Gift Aid scheme. This gives us a considerable income from tax rebates at no additional cost to those who have given donations.

(e) Then followed a snapshot of **Parish Life** (put together by **Kevin Wallace** and added to by **John Sexton**), shown through photographs and brief comments. It was just a snapshot of so many of the activities of our parish and was not meant to cover all aspects.

In the questions that followed, **Fr. Peter** informed those in attendance that we were looking at the feasibility of employing a **youth worker** for the parish and we would report back on this in due course. He also announced that we would have another open meeting in October (**proposed date Sunday 15 October at 7.00 pm**) – we hope to have two such meetings per year in the future in order to give parishioners more opportunity to raise questions and to play a greater part in the life of the parish.

(f) **Mary Smith** gave a brief and very clear explanation of what is being called: “**The New Evangelisation**”.

The meeting closed with communal prayer.

John Sexton
Chairman Parish Team