

## **Leigh Deanery Priests meeting.**

2.00pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019 at Holy Family, Boothstown.

Present:

**Fr Paul Seddon**, Dean. St John Rigby: St Richard's, Atherton & Sacred Heart, Hindley Green.

**Fr Paul Grady**, St Margaret Clitherow: Holy Family, Boothstown & St Ambrose Barlow Astley.

**Fr Kieran O'Grady**: St Edmund Arrowsmith: Sacred Heart & St Joseph's, Leigh.

**Fr Gordon Abbs**: St Catherine & All Saints, Lowton & Golborne and St Lewis, Croft.

### The Leigh Deanery.

Our Lady of the Rosary & 12 Apostles have now closed, leaving Sacred Heart & St Joseph's in Leigh as the Parish of St Edmund Arrowsmith.

St Richard's will split from St Margaret Clitherow and join Sacred Heart, Hindley Green (which joined the Leigh Deanery 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018) to form the new Parish of St John Rigby.

This leaves St Ambrose Barlow & Holy Family Boothstown as the Parish of St Ambrose Barlow.

St Catherine & All Saints Parish (formed when St Catherine of Siena church closed) and St Lewis became part of the Leigh Deanery 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

These changes will formally occur 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2020. One consequence is the necessary separation of Bank accounts.

1. **Parish Insurance:** the renewals have just been received and have in some cases to be tweaked so that the relevant buildings are insured under the relevant Parish (and premiums taken from the relevant bank account.)
2. **E mail addresses.** At the Council of Priests meeting (23<sup>rd</sup> Oct.) Martin Miller, the COO informed us that all parish e mails would be changing to an 'rcaol.org.uk' address for uniformity. From the new Diocesan directory this appears to have occurred but without reference to the individual Parishes. We are assured by James Bainbridge (IT dept.) that

we will be receiving instructions on how the parish can gain access to their new e mail accounts.

3. **Safeguarding Audit.** Each parish has been invited by the Safeguarding Dept. to conduct an audit (this will be annual) and given a challenging deadline. It will include many people who we would not normally consider to be included eg church cleaners. The priests indicated they were all part way through completing it with the assistance of their Parish Safeguarding rep.
4. **Identity cards.** The Diocese has begun to issue identity cards for all clergy. Submission of a digital photograph to the Chancellor is all that is needed. It will need to be renewed annually. This replaces the need for a celebret to be issued (so that priest can be vouched for when he celebrates mass in a church outside the diocese.)
5. **Building work within the Deanery.**
  - Holy Family. The diocese has instructed Fr Paul to resubmit his application for the rebuilding of the Parish Hall (delayed at the time due to the lack of a Deanery Plan).
  - St Richard's church: with the completion of a new roof the interior needs attention-patches of damp and general refurbishment. Rob Ball, Surveyors dept. is liaising.
  - Sacred Heart: dry rot identified and priced; awaiting the go-ahead from the Trustees.
  - St Joseph's: Hall. Due to the size of the work required the Surveyors are suggesting that work be staggered over three-year period to reduce the cost impact on Parish finances. **Church:** the Quinquennial reports are being looked at to identify which of the many items that require doing are a priority.
  - All Saints: Club. New roof almost complete; next phase is refurbishment.
  - St Catherine. Land sale has been completed. The net income (less demolition costs and relocation of ashes memorials) of approx. £500,000 will be invested by the diocese and the dividend paid into the current account of St Catherine & All Saints Parish.
6. **Lay Funeral Ministers.** The Deanery has a number of them. Their work and support is greatly appreciated and their ministry valuable particularly to the bereaved. With the permission of the Ministers (GDPR) a directory of Lay Funeral Ministers is to be compiled.

7. **New Eucharistic Ministers course.** Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 beginning at 10.00am with mass at St Ambrose Barlow church. Numbers attending to Fr Paul G by the latest the week before, please.
8. **High School Chaplaincy.** St Mary's has a series of assemblies (3 each day): 19 & 20<sup>th</sup> Dec of half an hour duration. Clergy checking their availability. Also: Advent Liturgy after school: 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. beginning 5.30pm.
9. **Deanery Novena.** Fr Paul S. suggested a Novena for the new year as a way of bringing the relatively new Deanery together. Clergy to bring ideas to the next meeting.
10. **Social activities:** Sacred Heart & St Joseph's to work on developing the current Christmas Fayre committee into something wider. St Richard's looking to run another trip to Stratford in May which the deanery is again invited to join.
11. **Health and wellbeing.** Suggestion that as Deanery clergy we should have a night away together. Fr Kieran to explore this.
12. **Christmas meal.** 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2019. For the Priests, deacons and their wives. Deacon Denis away.
13. **Date of next Priests meeting:** 2.00pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at Sacred Heart Presbytery, Leigh.
14. **Date of next meeting for Priests and Deacons:** 2.00pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 at All Saints, Church, Golborne.