



COMMUNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD

*The parishes of
Our Lady and the Apostles, St Ambrose, St. Bernadette, St. Joseph,
St Peter, St. Philip and St Vincent de Paul
in Stockport*

A Local Missionary Area in the Diocese of Shrewsbury

Notes from the Meeting held on Tuesday 12 March 2019 at 7.30 pm at St. Peter's, Hazel Grove

Present:

Our Lady and the Apostles: Fr David Long, Hazel Dove, Mary Varley
St. Ambrose: Fr. Geoff O'Grady, Kevin McKenna
St. Bernadette: Fr. Bill Fitzgerald, Tina Cain
St. Joseph: Fr. Jim Matthews, Frania Gell, Deacon Terry Simms
St. Peter: Fr. Peter Sharrocks, Julie Williams
St. Philip: David Smith, Val Savage
St. Vincent de Paul: Rowena Nield

Apologies:

LPA Catechist: Cecilia Allan

❖ **Welcome**

Fr. Peter welcomed everyone, and opened the meeting with prayer.

❖ **Notes from the Last Meeting**

These were agreed.

❖ **Matters Arising**

The Reflection Morning for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion held on 9 March at St. Vincent's and led by Margaret Lillis had been a very fruitful morning and was attended by over 80 people.

Hazel reminded people that the collection for the Friends of the Holy Land on New Year's Day raised over £700.

Fr. Jim introduced Frania Gell to the Team, as the representative from St. Joseph's, as Christine Wells had resigned after being on the Team since its inception. Rowena would write on behalf of everyone and thank her for her contribution..

❖ **Local Missionary Area**

The LPA became a Local Missionary Area in Advent in order to emphasise the outreach mission of us all. It would take time to introduce this into the Parishes. We are still known as the Community of Mary, Mother of God.

❖ **Healing Mission 30 May to 4 June 2019**

Most of meeting was spend dealing with details and practicalities of this Mission which would be led by the Little Way Healing Ministries. Everyone had received a timetable for the four days, a Three Month Action Programme and an summary sheet. Rowena and Julie would be overall co-ordinators but it would be helpful if each Parish could have one or two people to oversee preparations in their Parish.

Fr. David confirmed that the main venue would be Our Lady's and that there would be enough rooms to accommodate all the activities. Fr. Geoff would be sending a Bidding Prayer to all Parishes and Julie and Rowena would put together an advertising pack with posters etc. For all other details see the attached summary sheet.

The question was raised about care after of the one to one prayer on the Friday. Rowena would contact Healing Way about this and about the possibility of having the Mass on the Sunday at another Church.

Apart from advertising in Stockport, information would be sent to the three Cheadle Parishes, St. Christopher's in Romiley and Holy Spirit, Marple.

❖ **Lay Led Funerals**

Fr. Peter had received a letter from Bishop Mark asking us to refrain from any more Lay Led Funerals at present. A Diocesan Working Party had been set up to examine this.

❖ **Confirmation 2019**

St. Peter's, St. Philip's, St. Vincent's and St. Ambrose's – 2 July at St. Peter's

Our Lady's and St. Joseph's – 12 July at Our Lady's

This year St. Bernadette's will be joining with St. Christopher's on 10 July.

Tina raised that point that there is some confusion, especially in the schools, about Confirmation. Fr. David suggested that we could discuss at another meeting the feasibility of having a LMA Confirmation Mass next year. The question of preparation could also be explored.

❖ **St. Ambrose – Scripture Day**

Kevin explained that St. Ambrose's is celebrating 80 years and that they would like to organise a Day led by Fr. Nicholas King SJ at Aquinas on 5 October, if the meeting would be willing to support this. Fr. Nick has pencilled the date in his diary. This was agreed. It was decided to ask Fr. Nick to speak on Matthew's Gospel. Kevin would keep the meeting informed as to progress.

St. Peter's would be having a Catholic Bible Weekend on 17 – 20 May and Fr. Peter would send posters and further information to all parishes. The event would be open to all.

❖ **Lent Reconciliation Service**

It was agreed that as the attendance at the Advent Reconciliation Service had been so low, there wouldn't be a Reconciliation Service in Lent. Instead, on Friday 12 April at St. Peter's, there would be opportunity for individual Reconciliation during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 6 pm to 8 pm. Several priests would be available.

❖ **Marian Songs of Praise**

There would be no Marian Songs of Praise in May this year due to the Bible Weekend and Healing Mission.

❖ **Catechists' Meeting**

The two Catechists' Meetings held in October and January had been useful for those who attended. The next meeting would be on Thursday 27 June at 7.30 pm at St. Vincent's and there would be an opportunity to share resources and to celebrate the end of the year.

❖ **Date and Venue for Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be on Tuesday 21 May 2019 at St. Ambrose's, Adswold at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed with prayer.