

AGENDA FOR PPC OPEN MEETING- RE. THE SANCTUARY MURAL
WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 8PM 2014

Apologies UP AK

Present FM FJ AS CG CC EG JC MJ

27 Parishioners; Joyce and Jim Madden, Graham and Kathy Doust, Eileen McCann, Patricia Webber, Charles McCain, Liz Wheat, Katie Moran, Christine Hoban, John Magee, Ivor Amos, Bonta Teelinj, Barbara Batter, Pat Gammons, Lillian Rigley, Doreen Kavanagh, Jane Wilford, John and Dympna Kitchin, Alan Macken, Bernadette Turner, Mary Young, Colin Maddock, Sara Juric, Liz Bonner, Antonia Garvey and Maria Gascoigne.

Anthony Squire began by discussing the background of the Mural and the pre-submitted comments from Parishioners. He also mentioned that at this meeting he would present slides with different options that show the Sanctuary Mural removed or partially removed, and that everyone attending the meeting would have the opportunity to vote on the best option.

Fr. Michael also discussed in more detail the history of the Mural. The Mural was painted by the local artist Jennifer Bell, and had been commissioned by Fr. Tobin approximately 9 years ago costing £10,000.

Fr. Michael had mentioned that 3 years ago (when he arrived to the Parish), that he had received negative comments and views from Parishioners about the Mural. And more recently, the majority of (2-1) Parishioners that had responded that they wanted the Mural removing, and something brighter put in its place, as it was felt it dominated the church. Weddings had been transferred elsewhere, that the stain-glass window above was lost in the darkness of the Mural. That the Bishop had commented that it was 'always Good Friday' at the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Michael also mentioned that the Diocese have given their permission to remove it. However, a crucifix of the 'Risen Christ' could not be put in its place. Fr. Michael went onto explain that a priest from Grantham had offered us the chance to bid for a Crucifix from a church that was closing in Oakham. We put a bid in, but unfortunately we can assume that it was unsuccessful, as we have not heard any more.

Anthony went through all the current options using a projector and a PC presentation.

Option 1 - Plain magnolia wall without the Mural

Option 2- Plain magnolia wall and Banners

Option 3 - Plain magnolia wall, with only the Crucifix part of the Mural.

Option 4- Plain magnolia wall with a wider view of the Crucifix

Option5- Plain magnolia wall, keeping the Crucifix and robbers etc.

Option 6 Plain magnolia wall, keeping the panelling and pics of crucifix etc.

After each slide was shown, there was an open floor discussion. Some parishioners wanted to know how many people has responded to the PPC and Fr. Michael about the Mural. Fr. Michael confirmed that 200 people had responded. Others asked if costings had been done for painting over the Mural. Fr. Michael confirmed that he

had received two quotes, which came to about £810, for painting over Mural and wall.

There were a few mixed views at this meeting, some parishioners agreed that the Mural was depressing, others were sad to see it going, some wanted part of it preserving. Fr. Michael agreed that it would be preserved in some way photographically, or in the form of a banner. Some parishioners suggested that we purchase a brand new modern crucifix.

After much discussion, it was agreed that the Parish needed to make a decision.

Everyone at the meeting voted for each option. 30 Parishioners out of 37 voted for Option 1. This result included those who had also submitted their vote via email.

It was therefore agreed that the Mural would be painted over in a light colour, and new crucifix would eventually be purchased. However, the Mural would be preserved in some way.