

ST MARY'S WOOLHAMPTON PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting 30th July 2008

Present: Fr. Benedict, Sandra Brewester, Kate Burke, GERALYN COLLINS, Joanna Harrison (chair), Tom Huelin, Sean Murphy, Paul Paniccia, Midge Robinson, Annalisa Webb.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Paul Barras, Niki Bhamra, Barbara Jones.

Midge Robinson from Burghfield, deputising for Niki Bhamra, was welcomed to the meeting.

2. The meeting opened with prayer

3. **The minutes of the previous** meeting were approved as a true account of the proceedings.

4. Matters Arising

It was felt that the reference to the young people's group not engaging with matters of Catholic faith was too emphatic as all meetings had a spiritual element. It was agreed that the word 'only' inserted between 'with' and 'matters' would more accurately reflect the situation and that the published minutes would carry this amendment.

The Council was informed that a discussion with the chair of the Pastoral Area Pastoral Council had highlighted the possibility of organising a session on *lectio divina* open to the whole pastoral area.

5. Formulation of Verbal Communication to the Church Communities

There was no substantive general communication to be made.

6. Review of Actions from the last meeting

6.1 Anniversaries of the Deceased: After discussion it was agreed that the decision to read out all the names in the bulletin at the bidding prayers would be left to each church community as it was not a compulsory liturgical requirement.

7. Review of the Work of the Council

The chair reviewed the work of the Council during the previous twelve months prefaced by the observation that the Council was blessed by a particularly talented membership. Areas highlighted:

Challenge of raising the profile of the PPC was partially met by verbal communications and display of minutes on church notice boards.

Parish welcome leaflet had been published, distributed and made available at all the churches in the parish.

Youth ministry in the parish was now active with 20 young people participating in an event last October.

Welcoming ministry had been addressed and Angela Wills' visit to the PPC affirmed that we were undertaking much of what this ministry entailed. A welcome pack, renamed the parish directory, had been generated.

The RCIA, which had been reviewed at a PPC meeting, was now an established feature in the parish with 2 adults being received into full communion at Easter.

Availability of books for children in all the churches was ensured.

Encouragement for the laity to say what is most important in the parish through the availability of suggestion boxes and questionnaires. Courses have been set up for training ministers of the word and for the formation of new ministers of communion.

CRB checks have been completed in the parish. A vote of thanks was given to Barbara Jones, the CRB co-ordinator, for all the hard work she had put in. Whilst on this matter the Council were informed that an additional diocesan requirement had been proposed whereby all those undertaking children's liturgy or catechesis must attend a day course. Failure to attend would be a bar to working with children.

Faith-orientated events had been organised for children at Advent and Lent which included the sacrament of reconciliation. These were judged to have been a success.

A new process had been established with the registration cards for new parishioners.

The pastoral area celebration on 29th June at Douai Abbey had been a success.

There had been continuing support for marriage and family life which had been reviewed at a PPC meeting from which emerged the idea of a day retreat at Douai.

Passing on the faith to children had been discussed around a 10-point suggestion plan which had been circulated in the parish. A prayer/nurture support group for parents and grandparents had been suggested which would be followed up.

Renewal of commitment by ministers of communion had been revised and had taken place at Pangbourne, Theale and Woolhampton.

The PPC had been given a presentation about the bereavement support group. A leaflet would be available for distribution in the autumn in order to raise the profile of the group in the parish. The group had attended a bereavement support day organised by the diocese in June.

Mission in the parish was regarded as an on-going continuous dimension with spiritual input and all aspects of pastoral life considered to have a mission dimension.

It was proposed that the function of the PPC should enrich the quality of parish life, provide opportunities for parishioners to grow spiritually, discover and live out their own community call to mission and to live as Catholics.

The PPC should:

- a) be aware of what is already happening in the parish, encourage and support the good work of existing groups.
- b) Search out and respond to ideas, hopes, needs and concerns of parishioners.
- c) Carefully evaluate information gathered in order to make decisions that reflect the values of the gospel and teachings of the Church.
- d) Provide opportunities for parishioners to grow in their relationship with God and each other.
- e) Set long and short term goals for the parish.
- f) Explore the implications of being in a pastoral area

A discussion then ensued. After considering the possibility of 6-weekly intervals between meetings the decision was made to retain the current monthly meeting frequency. The quality of communication was discussed. It was felt that the church committees should be invited to respond as to what expectations they had of the PPC and to evaluate the review list given above from their perspective.

Action: Church committees

Raising the profile of the PPC was still felt to be required. It was suggested that the Council should strive to ensure that something is verbally communicated to the church communities following every Council meeting.

Whilst the PPC worked well as a team with the current membership, it was recognised that the composition would be changing in the future. There was a reminder that church committees should submit a list of three names to Fr. Benedict during October in order that he could select an individual from the list to serve on the PPC from early 2009.

Action: Church committees

8. Any Other Business

It was reported that just over £20 remained from the special collection made in the parish for the parish's contribution to the floral display at the pastoral area celebration. It was agreed that this residue would go to deferring the general costs of the celebration. Given the state of the parish finances the Council was informed that it might be necessary to have a further special collection in the parish to defray the costs of the pastoral area celebration when the final accounts are received.

The Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 17th September 2008 at Douai Abbey when the main item for consideration will be Initiation of Parents/Grandparents Support Group for Children's Faith Formation.

Future date for meeting, subject to confirmation:

Wednesday 15th October 2008

The meeting closed with prayer.

Chair.....

Secretary.....

Date.....