

## **MINUTES OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON SUNDAY 26th APRIL 2009**

**AT 7:00 pm in ST. ANNE'S PRIORY**

Present:

James Coleman, Maria Cooper, Margaret Daunt, Peter Mawtus, Chris Merriman (Chair), Fr Boniface Moran, Phillip Swift, Fr Godric Timney.

Minutes Secretary: Brian Farrimond

Invited guest: Fr Tim Buckley of the Redemptorist Fathers

### **1. Opening Prayer**

Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting and Maria led the opening prayer.

Chris then introduced Fr Tim Buckley who has been invited to discuss plans for running a Mission at St Anne's.

### **2. Apologies**

Clare Guidi., Tim McBride.

In order not to detain Fr Buckley unnecessarily, it was agreed that discussion of a Mission should take place at this point.

### **Parish Mission**

Chris started the discussion by commenting on the high level of activity in the parish, and how it was thought desirable to develop further the spiritual life of our whole community. A parish Mission is proposed as the way forward.

The following points were made:

- the formal parish structures such as the various policies had been put in place by the PPC over the previous few years
- a parish database had been established making it possible to reach out to the parish making use of this information
- there is a desire for spiritual development and growth within the parish

Fr Buckley responded by describing recent work by the Redemptorists on parish missions. He suggested that for a mission at St Annes:

- The parish should form a mission team that would generate ideas. The team would then meet with the mission team, perhaps over a week end, to identify what is to be done in the form of a programme. A programme that has succeeded in the past included:
  - week 1 - visiting parishioners in their homes
  - week 2 - celebration of the Faith.

He suggested that nowadays it might be thought better to invite parishioners to meet with the mission team rather than go visiting.

An alternative programme (as per a recent example in a Southend parish) might be summarised as

- week 1 - Refresh
- week 2 - Renew, Rejoice
- The mission should aim to introduce a variety prayer forms and spiritual exercises to the people. It should make people more relaxed and comfortable with prayer and demonstrate that a number of methods are available.
- The mission should leave a legacy in the parish so that Mission values live on
- A successful mission would emphasise to individuals that they belong to a community and enable the parish to reach out to a wider community
- It was not vital to get everything exactly right, and not to set expectations too high
- Fr Buckley had several contacts who might be available for a Mission in the parish but the parish should also make use of its own resources

Further points made included:

- The title 'Mission' might be thought off-putting and so a different title may be considered
- September or October 2010 might be a good time to hold the event
- It was generally agreed that there was a lot of people in the parish who could contribute
- Modern communications such as texting, e-mails and web sites made many more things possible than in the past
- A Mission would empower all the people to be evangelists to the world
- The recession is in some ways an opportunity to encourage people to realise the importance of the spiritual side of life.

It was agreed that:

- St Elizabeth's would be involved in the Mission
- St Bede's High School would be involved, but they already have their own regular events (eg Animate).

Fr Buckley left at this point.

**It was unanimously agreed that:**

- a Mission with Fr Buckley is agreed in principle
- a provisional date is September - October 2010
- consideration should be given to involving the Pastoral Area
- consideration should be given to making the mission ecumenical

**3. Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 8th March 2009 were accepted as true and accurate record.

**4. Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting**

Home is a Holy Place

*Action: Fr Godric and Chris to arrange the meeting with Peter. PPC members to let Chris know if they want to attend and he will tell them the time and place. when known*

Peter reported holding a very good meeting and that a meeting with the clergy was the next step.

**Action: Peter and Fr Godric to arrange a meeting.**

Member photographs

*Held over Action: James and Clare to get their photos taken.*

Not yet done.

*Action: Brian to add member photographs to agenda for next meeting.*

Done.

*Action: James to report on status of photos of PPC members for the web site.*

This was nearly complete. Photo needed for Deacon Des.

**Action: James to obtain photo of Deacon Des for the web site.**

House meetings

*Action: Chris to coordinate meetings with Fr Godric, Maria and Peter.*

These were not pursued this Lent as there was already a full agenda

Parish Mission

*Action: Brian to add Parish Mission as an agenda item for next time.*

Done

*Held over Action: Fr Godric to invite a Redemptorist to the next meeting of the PPC to discuss holding a Parish Mission.*

Done

Parish Website Support

*Held over Action: James and Fr Godric to liaise in order to place more information on St Elizabeth's on the web site*

Ongoing. More information need from Fr Godric.

**Action: James and Fr Godric to consult in St Elizabeth's information for the web site.**

Areas for disabled people in church

*Action: Fr Godric to consult with the disabled users to determine whether the spaces should be moved and arrange to have them moved if required.*

Done.

Welcoming to the parish

Welcoming Card

*Action: Cathy to produce draft information and "filling in" cards for the next meeting.*

Cathy not present so held over to next meeting.

**Action: Cathy to produce draft information and "filling in" cards for the next meeting.**

*Action: Brian to add Welcoming to the parish to agenda for next meeting.*

Done.

Statue of Our Lady newly arrived from Douai

*Action: PPC Members to consider whether they prefer the statue to the existing one.*

It has been decided that the statue is too big for the available plinth.

Response of the parish to the credit crunch.

*Action: Chris to discuss this with Fr Godric and decide whether to add it to the agenda for the next meeting.*

Done.

**Action: Brian to add Credit Crunch Response to the agenda for the next meeting.**

Christian Aid's community website competition.

*Action: Chris to forward the suggestion to James.*

After discussion it was agreed that the web site was not yet good enough. It needs refreshing in style and layout.

**Action: James to bring proposals for improvement to the next meeting.**

**5. New agenda items**

The discussion of the proposed Parish Mission left only a few minutes for the rest of the meeting.

**a) Parish Mission - Fr Buckley of the Redemptorists invited**

See above

**b) Welcoming to the parish**

Held over to next meeting.

**c) Response of Parish to credit crunch**

Held over to next meeting.

**d) Parish Website Support (Standing Item)**

Held over to next meeting.

**e) Status of Parish Centre Development (Standing Item).**

**Fr Godric to report**

Held over to next meeting.

**6. Correspondence**

None.

**7. Reserved issues**

None.

**8. Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere.**

None.

**9. Any other business**

None.

**10. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place at 7 pm on Sunday 14th June 2009 in the Priory. The meeting should finish at 8.30 pm.

**11. Closing prayer**

James led the closing prayer.