

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST & ST. PETER'S PARISH
MINUTES OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2008.

Present: Fr. Jim O'Hanlon. Sr. Ignatius. Pat Lee. Tony Garrett. Maria Greensmith.

Opening Prayer: Fr. Jim led the opening prayer. Pat Lee read the Gospel, Reflection by Sr. Ignatius.

Input: Fr. Jim read from notes on the Formation Course for PPC's. The strengths and weaknesses of the council. Involvement in any aspect of parish life can become so focused and intense that it is difficult to see the wood for the trees, to identify the weaknesses and strengths of the overall parish. Continuous assessment of parish life - its needs and the work taking place at all levels – in light of the mission statement, is one of the tasks of the PPC that will uncover new possibilities, clarify what needs to be changed or strengthened, make better use of resources, and ensure that all are working together as a cohesive whole. The PPC may engage in the following four areas of evaluation: Each meeting; Council initiatives and overall service to the parish; the parish as a whole; Councillor's self-assessment.

Apologies: Colette Burns and Justin Morgan.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

With two slight alterations regarding Parish Boundaries and car parking facilities at St. Peter's Church, the minutes were passed as a true record.

Parish Boundaries: Fr. Jim reported that Hoby is not in the Parish *according to the Diocesan Parish map*, although it is in the schools catchment area. Otherwise the Parish Boundary is correct; this matter to be finalised at the Priest Deanery Meeting.

St. Peter's Church car park: Fr. Jim informed the committee that £2000 will be received from Melton Borough Council to facilitate car parking for council workers. The Diocese is finalising the legalities of this matter.

Matters Arising:

- a) Handing on the Faith – CaFé.
Sr. Ignatius informed the committee that it had been hoped to start again this month. Mary Barson has done the relevant course and was next to lead it but due to work commitments has not got the time to lead the course, possibly not for another year. Therefore, it is hoped to start in January but nothing has been decided as yet. Maria does not feel that she can take this on but would offer help when she could. Tony said he would be willing to help Sr. Ignatius. The first course would be for five weeks hopefully starting in January, possibly on a Wednesday evening.
- b) Home is a Holy Place.
This is being looked into by Maria and Sr. Ignatius.
- c) One World Festival – Melton.

Pat said that some leaflets had been distributed at St. John's; more will be given out again this Sunday. Leaflets had also been distributed at St. Peter's.

- d) Christmas Fayre.
This is ongoing; the Working Men's Club is the venue.
- e) Welcome Back to Church – Churches Together.
Fr. Jim said that the parish had missed out on this. He had received samples of literature regarding Christmas, and we will do our own.
- f) PPC Members.
At the moment it seems people do not want to be committed. We need four more members for the committee; this action is ongoing.
The question was asked whether it was possible to have more meetings so decisions could be made earlier – possibly at least once a month with dates set for possibly six months at a time.
- g) S.V.P.
Pat said he had attended the meeting regarding setting up the junior section of SVP. This is going ahead. Pat is trying to form the senior section of SVP. Quite a number of people could benefit from this organisation which is open to Catholics and non-Catholics. Maria asked Pat would he be prepared to give a talk on this subject to the Churches Together Group. Pat said a secretary and treasurer would be needed for this group.
- h) Painting at St. John's.
It was suggested that the colours be selected – with not too many choices – these put on the walls so they can be viewed by the parishioners, and action taken. It was also proposed to try to re-instate the bell at St. John's. This matter is ongoing.
- i) Visit by Mayor.
Fr. Jim said the Mayor had attended Mass at the Convent earlier in October and would be coming to Midnight Mass at Christmas.

AGENDA:

PPC/PTA GOVERNOR'S MEETING.

No action was taken. It was thought that the main point that came out of this meeting was that some parishioners who were lapsed Catholics, did not know the way back into the Faith. More contact is needed in this respect, and possibly pastoral visits could be made where needed.

It was asked whether a survey regarding parents had been done by the PTA. This survey could be kept simple and anonymous and whatever information was gained, this could be acted upon. The PPC could then possibly help. Justin to be asked regarding this matter. It was also suggested that a simple survey via the Parish Magazine might help.

The subject of Family Mass was discussed. It was generally thought that staff would be needed to coach the children for this event. The idea of having the children sit at

the front of the church was put forward; it was agreed that this be discussed at the next Children's Liturgy Group meeting. Maria would speak to the Liturgy Group and report back.

Loughborough Deanery Celebrations 2009.

Sr. Ignatius reported on the meeting regarding this. The meeting was to find out what the various parishes were doing. Minutes from the meeting were distributed to the PPC members. It was pointed out that 'Home is a Holy Place' initiative and CaFé overlap. We were the only parish that responded regarding the Loughborough Deanery Celebrations. As soon as something is known regarding the Celebrations we will be informed.

Annual Parish Meeting.

Minutes regarding this would be distributed to PPC members and also on the website in due course.

With regard to communication within the parish, it was suggested that the list that had been drawn up in respect of the various organisations within the parish be updated.

Date of Next Meeting.

Due to Fr. Jim having another commitment on the 20th November, this meeting was changed:

November 13th 7.30pm in the meeting room at St. Peter's.

December 4th 7.30pm in the meeting room at St. Peter's.

Any Other Business.

The idea of a play area in church was mentioned. Maria said that there is a specific area in St. Mary's Church for very young children. Was it possible for this provision to be available at St. Peter's Church for children not of liturgy age? This subject to be brought up at the next meeting.

The concluding prayer was led by Fr. Jim.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.