

# **Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Team**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

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**Present:** Father Michael D'Arcy Walsh, John Cooke, Tricia Davies, Elizabeth Hitchens, Christine Martin, Anne Morgan-Jones, Teresa Quinn, Anita Rooney and Charles Taylor.  
Paul Blake (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Jane Murphy.

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7.30.p.m.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013 were approved.

Matters arising were as follows:

The day of recollection for Extraordinary Ministers of Eucharist had not taken place. Teresa Quinn apologised for the confusion regarding this which resulted in the postponement of the event.

Due to the ill health of Father Michael the blessing of the stained glass windows had not taken place.

Two parish catechists had attended the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013. Father Michael asked that parishioners wishing to become catechists should first speak to Teresa Quinn prior to being interviewed by himself. It was reported that three parishioners, (Anne Morgan-Jones, Elizabeth Hitchens and Marchette Lee), are taking part in the diocesan catechists' course. Father Michael requested that arrangements be made for him to meet with Marchette Lee. Information regarding Christmas services had been publicised. Many people attended the Mass on Christmas Eve.

### **Announcements from Father Michael:**

Father Michael thanked all for their prayers during his recent period of ill health, and explained that he is not yet completely well.

Father Michael stated that as the resident priest he would prefer that the term 'Pastoral Team' is used rather than 'Pastoral Council' and that the Pastoral Team was to be seen solely as a consultative body. Father Michael expressed concern that there had not been team working and that some people were deciding things amongst themselves; he needed to know what was being decided, since he had sole responsibility for the sacraments within the parish.

Father Michael read from a letter received from Bishop Declan to all Parish Priests regarding the recently published Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis on the proclamation of the Gospel in today's world: "Evangelii Gaudium". In the letter Bishop Declan had requested that this document form the basis of any pastoral plan within deaneries, parishes and schools.

In answer to a question Father Michael stated that he saw this document being used by both the Pastoral Team and the whole parish as a means of adult formation. Some copies of the published document would be purchased to be available for sale. It was noted that the document is freely available online.

### **Ways in which the Pastoral Council can help develop the pastoral activity of the parish whilst Father Michael is convalescing.**

Father Michael stated that at the present time, due to his ill health, supply priests will continue to celebrate weekend Masses, but that he was able to cope with other pastoral functions.

In reply to a question Father Michael agreed that at the present time The Prayer of the Faithful should continue to be written by the readers, but that once he was restored to full health he would reassume this responsibility.

### **Sacramental preparation:**

Baptism: Father Michael and Elizabeth Hitchens would continue to meet with parents prior to Baptism.

First Communions: Mary Cooke had expressed a willingness to act as a catechist for this year's programme but needed additional support. It was agreed that Teresa Quinn would suggest names of additional catechists to Father Michael, and that someone should be sought to support Mary Cooke prior to an item being placed in the newsletter inviting parents to write to Father Michael requesting that their children join the programme of preparation.

Confirmations: John Cooke reported that he had yet to make contact with Saint Mary's School, Calne, regarding preparation of students for Confirmation.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, (RCIA): There are no candidates at present but John Cooke is in conversation with an enquirer.

### **Lent and Holy Week:**

Plans for a possible Lent course were discussed. It was agreed that there was insufficient time of preparation to use "Evangelii Gaudium" as the basis of a course this Lent. Christine Martin suggested some prepared course materials using videos. Possible venues were discussed and Christine Martin offered to come up with a proposal for a Lent course, and a venue. It was agreed that if such a course were to take place parishioners of St. Mary's, Chippenham, would be invited to attend.

Father Michael suggested that a small group meet to plan Holy Week after the start of Lent.

### **Parish website:**

To date no volunteer had come forward to manage and update the parish website. Paul Blake explained that the diocesan press officer can provide training and for a moderate annual fee the diocese can host a parish web site. Father Michael agreed that this fee would be paid. After discussion Paul Blake agreed to undertake this work, and Christine Martin offered her help from September. Paul Blake will make contact with the diocesan press officer.

### **Items from the Pastoral Council of Saint Mary's, Chippenham:**

Anne Morgan-Jones and Elizabeth Hitchens had attended the last meeting of the Pastoral Council of Saint Mary's, Chippenham; there were no major matters to report.

**Items from the Calne Partnership of Churches:**

It was reported that the Annual General Meeting of the Calne Partnership of Churches will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014. Tricia Davies offered to provide transport for Father Michael to attend. Elizabeth Hitchens will contact Ann Marie Goddard to ascertain if she is willing to continue to serve as a parish representative.

**Other business:**

It was reported that the Communion Services held on Wednesday mornings were not well attended. It was agreed that these would continue for the present and Father Michael agreed that Morning Prayer could be celebrated at this service if there was a demand for this.

Discussion took place regarding the funding for those attending the catechists' course. Various suggestions for specific fund raising were considered. Christine Martin and Anita Rooney expressed the view that this was a legitimate core parish expense. Father Michael agreed that the parish would contribute £120 towards the cost of parishioners attending this course.

Father Michael was asked about the announcement made at the end of Mass in a previous week by a parishioner that discussions were taking place with diocesan authorities regarding a reduction in the number of weekend Masses due to financial constraints. Father Michael replied that he did not know anything about this, or about any discussions taking place regarding this. Christine Martin expressed the view that the announcement was inappropriate, could have been perceived as a threat, particularly to vulnerable parishioners, and that any appeal for funds, in common with all announcements from the sanctuary, should be prayerful, considerate and considered.

It was reported that the Pickford family had suggested a parish Barn Dance and offered a venue for Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014. It was agreed that a small group of parishioners should be formed to organise this event.

It was agreed that a meeting would take place late afternoon on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 to plan Holy Week. Father Michael suggested that Jane Murphy and Charles Taylor attend. Teresa Quinn agreed to invite some others.

**Date of next meeting.**

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Team will be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 at 7.30.p.m. in the church hall.

The meeting closed at 8.30.p.m. with a prayer.

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