

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council (Pastoral Team)

Draft minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2015

Present: Father Michael D'Arcy Walsh, Glen Alabaster, John Cooke, Tricia Davies, Elizabeth Hitchens, Christine Martin, Christine Meyer, Teresa Quinn, (Chair), and Ian and Teresa MacCallum, (representatives from the Parish Pastoral Council of Saint Mary's Parish, Chippenham).
Paul Blake (Clerk).

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

Apologies for absence were received from Anne Morgan-Jones and Maria Wykes

Minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2014.

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising from these minutes:

Christine Meyer reported that she had sent Father Michael an item for the parish newsletter explaining how she was co-ordinating parish pastoral care of sick and housebound parishioners.

Thanks were given to Elizabeth Hitchens and Christine Martin for speaking at the end of Masses about 'The Joy of the Gospel' meetings.

Father Michael apologised that he failed to include an item in the parish newsletter about seeking an additional parish representative for the Calne Partnership of Churches. Elizabeth Hitchens agreed to re-send this item to him.

Paul Blake reported that he had communicated with Charles Taylor regarding the suggestion that a rota of altar servers might be drawn up. No reply had been received. Father Michael reported that many altar servers attended the Mass on the Feast of Saint Stephen.

Thanks were given to John and Mary Cooke for organising the 'Traditional Cream Teas' during the weekends of Advent.

Sacramental preparation.

First Communions: Father Michael reported that he had met with Mary Cooke regarding this year's programme of preparation. It was noted that only a few applications had been received, although more may come via the school. It is hoped that the programme will start on 1st February, with First Communions being celebrated on 7th June 2015. It was planned that several different catechists would lead sessions for parents on Sundays after the morning Mass. Mary Cooke was seeking volunteers to lead the meetings for parents and children, organise the two sacramental liturgies and act as a focal point for all enquiries about the programme. Elizabeth Hitchens agreed to fulfil the role as the central point of contact. Father Michael said that he was hoping to recruit some younger catechists.

Confirmations: Father Michael reported that the Bishop would be celebrating Confirmations at Trowbridge on 30th June and at Devizes on 9th July. Christine Martin explained that it would be difficult for her to act as a catechist for a programme of preparation if Confirmations were scheduled to take place in either June or July. Father Michael suggested that Confirmations could be delayed to October. After some discussion Father Michael agreed to contact the Bishop to seek to arrange a date for Confirmations to be celebrated at Saint Edmund's Church in October, if this was agreed then an invitation would be extended to young people to join a parish programme of preparation, which would then be planned. This item will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Marriage and the family.

Those present discussed possible responses to the invitation from Bishop Declan in his recent Pastoral Letter on how to support families and celebrate marriage. Paul Blake explained how this linked with 'The Call, the Journey and the Mission – An Invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales to Reflect on the Gift of Marriage and Family Life' in preparation for the 2015 Synod.

Several areas were covered in a lengthy discussion; these included the 'Celebration of Marriage' Mass at Clifton Cathedral on 14th February, the possibility of holding a series of meetings in Lent, a mission to 'returning families' similar to that taking place at Melksham parish, marriage enrichment courses, holding a 'Family Day', outreach to families, and the holding of non-Eucharistic liturgies.

Christine Martin drew attention to the letter from the Bishops of England and Wales to the clergy and some of the issues and questions it raised in relation to the forthcoming Synod.

Teresa Quinn summarised the discussions and suggested a way forward as follows: existing practice with respect to supporting families and marriage should be continued, (our welcome, the Children's Liturgy of the Word, First Communion preparation), efforts should be made to engage with young families, a possible 'Family Day' with the parish and school should be considered, and if a group wished to get together to reflect on questions relating to the forthcoming Synod this will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Prayer Vigil on 11th July 2015.

Those present discussed the request from the Bishops of England and Wales for every parish to hold a prayer vigil on 11th July 2015 as part of 'Proclaim'15', on the evening of the National Catholic Evangelisation Conference.

It was agreed that such a prayer vigil would take place in the church from 7.00.p.m. to 9.00.p.m. on Saturday 11th July 2015. The format and organisation of this would be discussed at a future meeting. Father Michael reported that the 40th anniversary of his Ordination would be celebrated on 14th July 2015.

RISE Theatre production: 25th February 2015.

Christine Martin gave further details of this, including advertising posters and ticket sales. Details would be circulated via the Calne Partnership of Churches, Saint Mary's Parish Chippenham, the school, and the parish newsletter. Tricia Davies offered to help with ticket sales and Teresa Quinn and Christine Meyer offered to help on the evening itself. Christine Martin explained that proceeds from ticket sales will be used to pay the theatre company, and the allocation of any profits which might arise would be determined by the Parish Council.

The production takes place at Saint Edmund's School on Wednesday 25th February 2015 at 7.30.p.m. Tickets are £8 each and a family ticket is £20.

Lent and Easter 2015.

Father Michael said that he had nothing to report at this stage. Details of an ecumenical Lent course should be available after the next meeting of the Calne Partnership of Churches.

Youth ministry.

As Maria Wykes was not present at the meeting, having sent her apologies, there was nothing to report for this item.

Items from the Pastoral Council of St. Mary's Parish Chippenham.

Ian and Teresa MacCallum reported that Canon Millett had been unwell and that times of weekday Masses had changed. A sacramental preparation programme was underway with First Communions taking place in May. A pantomime outing had taken place to Bristol and monthly meals were served in the parish hall.

Items from Calne Partnership of Churches.

Elizabeth Hitchens reported that since the Calne Partnership of Churches had discontinued the Good Friday Procession of Witness she was looking into the possibility of having Stations of the Cross displayed throughout the town. These could be in the form of photographs of the Saint Edmund's Stations of the Cross being printed on mobile 'pull-up' banners. Grant funding of up to £500 might be available from Wiltshire Churches Together.

Elizabeth Hitchens will raise this at the next meeting of the Calne Partnership of Churches, and also suggest that the Procession of Witness should be reinstated.

Other business.

Details of a 'Curry and Quiz Night' to be held at the school on Friday 30th January were made available and tickets will be on sale after Masses this coming weekend.

Tricia Davies requested that consideration should be given to making plans to incorporate the remaining stained glass panels from Saint Joseph's Church at Lyneham into the church. Specific fund raising which would not be liable for the diocesan levy could be organised. There is a possibility that the Principal R.A.F. Roman Catholic Chaplain the Reverend (Wing Commander) James Caulfield, who attended the blessing of the existing windows on 16th November, might be able to access some grant funding.

Father Michael expressed concern that fund raising was needed to carry out repairs to the church roof. It was agreed that this was an appropriate matter for the Finance Committee to discuss, and Father Michael agreed to ensure that it was placed on the agenda of the meeting of the Finance Committee to be held on 28th January 2015.

Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th March 2015 at 7.30.p.m. in the church hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45.p.m. with a prayer.
