

Minutes of Joint Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Wednesday 3rd April 2019

Present Fr. Vincent Curtis, Mary Rooney, Sharon Pearce, Christine Martin, Elizabeth Hitchens, Gay Harris, Paul Blake, Henie Dixon, Mary Harris, Anne Doyle, Gervase O'Donohoe, and Susan Whyte.

Apologies David Coghlan, Sarah Clifton, Teresa Quinn, Tricia Davies, Helen Murphy, Kathleen Joyce, and Anne Morgan-James.

Mary Rooney welcomed everyone to the meeting and the meeting began with introductions, Prayer and a reflection on a Scripture reading.

Minutes of Joint PPC Meeting on the 8th of November 2018 This was accepted as a true record.

Deanery/Parish Restructuring In 2021 there will be only four priests under the age of 75. A plan is being formulated as to how the four priests will manage all 8 Parishes (excluding Devizes) in the Deanery. So far there have been three proposals from Fr. Tom Finnegan, Fr. Vincent Curtis, and one by the Dean Fr. Martin Queenan in the last few days asking for Devizes to be taken on as well. But this seems impossible as Devizes is served by the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales.

The proposal to have a meeting in June inviting the general public to express their views is going ahead on Saturday the 1st of June from 10am to 3pm. It was agreed by all members that there is a greater than ever need now for the Laity to get more involved. It was recommended that more training could be given to the Laity to help with this. Christine Martin has been sent the agenda for the public meeting at her request. David Wells will be chairing this meeting and giving a talk. There will also be table discussions. Members agreed that there seems to be little or no opportunity to cater for the bigger issues in Bishop Declan's message to the Deanery; to discuss the Review and Renewal of Parish structures. A complete rethink of the notion of Parish and territorial boundaries. The agenda as it stands does not seem to give much room if any for views to be properly expressed and for feedback. It seems to be more focused on Mass times and which priest is responsible. Greater clarity regarding exactly what is going to be discussed and how its done is needed.

It was decided with this in mind that Christine is going to write a letter expressing our concerns on behalf of the Joint Parishes of St. Anthony's and St. Edmunds. This will be circulated beforehand so the members of the Joint PPCs can add any extra points if needed.

Future Shared Events Father Vincent will be 30 years ordained as a priest on the 10th of June this year. Members agreed that our joint Parishes will have a Garden party with strawberries and wine at St. Edmunds on Sunday the 9th of June from 12-3pm as an open social event to celebrate this occasion. Buffet food will be provided by St. Edmunds and donations welcome instead of a fixed price to attend. All proceeds for this will go to Mary's Meals which both Parishes support.

Other suggestions of a joint quiz and/or an orchestra performance were also suggested for later in the year.

AOB A Parishioner has made a query as to whether there could be a Saturday evening Mass once every 2 months at St. Anthony's, for those who struggle to make it to the morning Masses during the week and on Sundays, due to medication or medical conditions. However, this was not possible as Fr. Vincent has Mass at St. Edmunds on Saturday evenings. There is however the Mass of Anointing twice a year on a Sunday afternoon at St. Anthony's and hopefully this should help.

Father Vincent gave his consent for the yearly collection made for Fr. Danny on Holy Thursdays at St. Anthony's to go ahead. The money is for the people of Peru with the work Fr. Danny is doing over there.

Date of the Next Joint Meeting This will be held on Thursday the 17th of October at St. Edmunds in Calne at 7.30pm.

The meeting concluded with the Scripture reading which was reflected on at the beginning of the meeting and a blessing by Fr. Vincent.