

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council

Draft minutes of a meeting held on 25th May 2023

Present: Father Vincent, Tricia Davies, Elizabeth Hitchens, Kathleen Joyce, Helen Murphy, Teresa Quinn, Brigid Rodgers, (Chair).
Paul Blake (Clerk).

Apologies: Christine Martin, Rob Pickford.

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7.00.p.m., followed by a scripture reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

Minutes of meeting held on 10th March 2023

These minutes were approved.

Matters arising from these minutes:

A day for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion has been organised at Devizes parish on 27th June 2023. There is a need for additional Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at the Saturday evening Mass. Father Vincent will seek further such Ministers.

Follow up items from the joint meeting with Saint Anthony's Parish Pastoral Council held on 26th January 2023

The résumé of the continental stage document of the Synod had not yet been prepared. The parish organist is supporting Saint Anthony's Parish with music once a month. Members of Saint Anthony's Parish will be invited to the Saint Edmund's Parish barbecue on 18th June 2023.

Follow up items from the meeting with the Head and Deputy of Saint Edmund's School held on 16th March 2023

Items from the school had not yet been published in the parish newsletter. The Rise Theatre Company had visited the school. Tricia Davies had not been contacted by FOSE (The Friends of Saint Edmund's School) and will now contact the school about this. The school community will be attending Mass at the church on Friday 26th June 2023. It was not known whether the parish First Communion catechists had visited the school. At the meeting held on 16th March 2023 it was agreed that families taking part in the parish Baptism preparation courses could be given information about the school and invited to visit. It was not known if this had taken place. The school had agreed to provide congratulation cards to families when children are baptised. For this to happen the school would need to be alerted to forthcoming baptisms. Father Vincent reported that in future Mass would be celebrated for the school either on the day before, or the day after, Holy Days of Obligation falling on a weekday in term time.

Diocesan Day on 17th June 2023 and day for facilitators on 10th June 2023

Father Vincent reported that this day had been postponed and will now take place on Saturday 7th October 2023. He had been informed that the restructuring of diocesan deaneries from 13 to 9 had now taken place and that the Parish Priest of Trowbridge Parish had been appointed by the Bishop as the new Dean for our Deanery. Concern was expressed by Father Vincent and members of the Parish Council that this restructuring process had taken place without the consultation of a wider group of clergy and the laity which had been promised by the Bishop in his Pastoral Letter of 1st January 2023.

Update on the Parish Project

Funds raised for the Parish Project to date from the raffle and donations made at the Lent Lunches and the Lent course had been sent to the two charities. Future fund-raising events planned are the parish barbecue to be held on 18th June 2023 and the parish concert and supper to be held on 29th September 2023.

Update on Sacramental preparation programmes.

One family had taken part in the Baptism preparation course in April and the child has now been baptised. Another baptism will take place on Friday 2nd June 2023.

First Communions will be celebrated on Sunday 25th June 2023.

There are no plans for the Sacrament of Confirmation to be celebrated in the parish; one potential candidate had been referred to Trowbridge parish to joint their preparation programme.

Discussion on an area from ‘Called to be people of Hope’: Prayer

Mothers’ Prayers are held in the parish each week with about half a dozen persons attending each week. The Lent course this year was about ‘Prayer’. Many opportunities for personal prayer within a church setting were noted to be taking place at Saint Anthony’s Parish, Melksham. Father Vincent reported that when such opportunities had been offered at Saint Edmund’s Parish very few people had attended. He agreed to trial again Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Friday morning Mass once a month. A strong culture of prayer was recognised at Saint Edmund’s School with the rosary being prayed each lunchtime during May in the school’s prayer garden.

Items from Calne Partnership of Churches.

It was noted that the Calne Foodbank had relocated to 1 Oxford Road, Calne.

Any other business.

With the demise of Traidcraft and their Fair-Trade products such items for the church hall would have to be sourced from Fair-Trade products available from some supermarkets.

Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd August 2023 at 7.00.p.m. in the church hall.

The meeting ended at 8.10.p.m. with a closing prayer.