

# **Minutes of the Joint Meeting of St Anthony's and St Edmunds Pastoral Councils**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 7.00 pm at St Anthony of Padua, Melksham**

Present: Paul Blake, Fr Vincent Curtis, Linda Cassidy, Anne Doyle (chair), Gay Harris, Elizabeth Hitchens, Kathleen Joyce, Christine Martin, Sharon Pearce (minutes), Brigid Rodgers.

## **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Anne welcomed everyone to St Anthony's.

## **2. Opening Prayer, Scripture Reading, Reflection and Sharing.**

The meeting opened with a prayer, and a reading chosen by Gay Harris.

## **3. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Tricia Davies, Aniela Downar, Tony Matthews, Helen Murphy, Gervase O'Donohoe, Rob Pickford, Teresa Quinn, Mary Rooney, Susan Whyte

## **4. Minutes of Joint Meeting at St Edmunds on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. The continental Synodal document Christine was going to précis has been superseded by a further document from the Synod, to be released next Tuesday (20<sup>th</sup> June).

## **5. Update on Deanery Restructuring**

The decision had now been made for Trowbridge Deanery to join with the Bath Deanery. This had been agreed without consultation with the laity. This is disappointing as after the Bishop's pastoral letter of 1<sup>st</sup> January, it had been expected that the views of the laity would be considered before any changes to the Deanery structure were decided.

A (Trowbridge) Deanery meeting is to take place next Tuesday (20<sup>th</sup> June), when more information may become available. The Diocesan day planned for June 17<sup>th</sup> has been postponed and will now take place on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The number attending the October meeting remains restricted to the priest and 2 parish representatives.

Fr Vincent suggested that the next stage would probably focus on the number and timing of Masses held in parishes, and it was recognised that the laity are keen to be involved in and help shape future decisions.

Following some discussion, it was agreed that this issue needs our prayer.

## **6. St Anthony's Feast Day Celebratory Mass/St Edmund's Barbeque - 18<sup>th</sup> June**

This Sunday (18<sup>th</sup> June), St Anthony's will mark St Anthony of Padua's feast day of 13<sup>th</sup> June with a celebratory Mass at 9.00 am. St Edmund's are also holding their summer barbeque after the 11.00am Mass on the same day. Several parishioners from St Anthony's will be attending the barbeque.

## **7. Future Shared Events**

At the previous joint meeting, the need to give more attention to mission was raised, and this was discussed. It was recognised that there is a need to evangelise and build prayer, and to attract and include new parishioners who had moved into the area with the new housing available. There was discussion regarding resources and programmes available, e.g., Catholic Bible School, Diocesan resources etc., and recognition that mission requires a lot of preparation and volunteers.

Fr Vincent would like to hold a joint healing service for both parishes. This would include praying over people, readings, and the laying on of hands, and normally takes 2-3 hours, dependant upon the number attending. It will be open to all, not just those who need healing. It was agreed that a Healing Service will be held at St Edmund's on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 2.00 pm.

It was agreed to run a shared Advent course on Sunday afternoons, alternating the venue between St Anthony's and St Edmund's – this had been successful last year.

## **8. AOB**

Christine Martin said that thought need to be given to confirmations. There had been no confirmations in either parish for some time. It was agreed that candidates for confirmation in 2024 should write to Fr Vincent and should be at least of secondary school age. Sharon Pearce will advertise this in both parish newsletters.

## **9. Date of next meeting:**

The next joint meeting will take place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00 pm at St Edmund's church hall.

The meeting concluded with a prayer and blessing from Fr Vincent at 8.00 pm.