

**Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council**  
**Draft minutes of a meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023**

---

**Present:** Father Vincent, Tricia Davies, Elizabeth Hitchens, Christine Martin, Helen Murphy, Rob Pickford, Teresa Quinn, Brigid Rodgers, (Chair).  
Paul Blake (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Kathleen Joyce, Tony Matthews.

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7.00.p.m., followed by a scripture reading from Psalm 139.

**Minutes of meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

These minutes were approved.

Matters arising from these minutes:

A meeting for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion was held at Devizes parish on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023. This was mainly about process rather than a time for reflection.

The school community had attended Mass at the end of the school year. The school needs to be notified when Baptisms take place so that they can send congratulation cards.

**Update on Sacramental preparation programmes.**

A Baptism has recently taken place. Another course of preparation for two families will take place in October.

First Communions had taken place. The catechist has indicated her willingness to continue in this role next year.

Expressions of interest in Confirmations have been received from three people from Melksham parish and two from Calne parish.

The details of the new diocesan course for catechists taking place in September were shared. It was agreed that if it were possible to record these 'on-line' sessions they could be shared later with parishioners through a series of parish meetings.

**Discussion on an area from 'Called to be people of Hope': Liturgical Prayer**

Members reflected on how well the parish achieved "fully conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations" as advocated in the Second Vatican Council document. Some points raised included:

Asking parishioners to take part in an 'offertory procession' bringing the bread and wine to the sanctuary at the Saturday evening Masses.

A shortage of altar servers at the Saturday evening Masses.

The children's Liturgy of the Word to be re-started in September, with plans for it to take place every Sunday in school term time.

The need for additional Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to minister at Masses.

A 'healing service' to take place in October.

Baptisms can take place during Masses if requested by the family concerned.

**Update on the diocesan deanery re-organisation.**

The new local deanery is to be known as 'The pastoral area of Saint Oliver Plunkett'. A pastoral letter from Bishop Declan is expected shortly. There was some confusion as to what exactly the role of the new 'Pastoral Assistants' was to be, and some concern expressed regarding the proposal to centralise some Ministries and roles within each deanery rather than within each parish, (although the advantages of co-ordinating Health and Safety responsibilities were noted).

**Items from Calne Partnership of Churches.**

The new Vicar at Saint Mary's Parish Church is due to be inducted on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The local 'Warm Spaces' initiative continues, to be known as 'Friendly Spaces'. There was a desire to see the Stations of the Cross banners in use again next year.

**Any other business.**

A note will be placed in the newsletter encouraging parishioners to visit the church hall to see the display provided by the school. Welcomers at Sunday Masses should, in the porch at the end of Mass, encourage parishioners to come to refreshments in the church hall.

A concert to raise funds for the Parish Project takes place on the evening of Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Many musical groups are taking part and publicity and tickets will shortly become available.

**Date of next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.00.p.m. in the church hall.

The meeting ended at 8.30.p.m. with a closing prayer.