Minutes of the Joint Meeting of St Anthony's and St Edmund's Pastoral Councils

Thursday 18th April 2023, 7.00 pm at St Anthony of Padua, Melksham

Present: Paul Blake, Fr Vincent Curtis, Patricia Davies, Aniela Downar, Anne Doyle, Christine Martin, Helen Murphy, Sharon Pearce (minutes), Rob Pickford, Mary Rooney (chair), Susan Whyte.

1. **Opening Prayer, Scripture Reading, Reflection and Sharing.**

The meeting opened with a prayer, and a reading chosen by Susan Whyte, followed by reflection and short discussion on the reading.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Joan Boorer, Linda Cassidy, Gay Harris, Elizabeth Hitchens, Kathleen Joyce, Brigid Rodgers, Teresa Quinn.

3. **Minutes of Joint Meeting at St Edmunds on 9th November 2023 and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

4. **Catechetical Preparation of Confirmations Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at St Edmund's**

Between the two parishes, a total of eleven children have asked to be confirmed. Classes will need to start soon, and Susan and Lauren have agreed to prepare the candidates from St Anthony's. As yet no-one had volunteered to be a catechist at St Edmund's, but following discussion, Christine agreed to be a Confirmation catechist so long as there would be regular support; ideally a small team of regular helpers to work together. **Christine will approach parishioners at St Edmund's who may be interested in helping.**

There is online Catechist training available; the Light of Truth course is ongoing and can be accessed by Zoom.

It was suggested that different parishioners could be approached and asked if they would give the confirmation candidates a short talk to share their faith, as part of the sessions. This would enable the candidates to see how others live out their faith, and how and why it is important to them.

The Confirmation Catechist at St John's is going to provide a copy of the course used there, which can be tailored to different parishes. There is also the Youcat course, which has a supporting App. that the candidates may find useful.

It was agreed that there should be a joint away day for candidates; Susan and Christine will liaise to agree details.

It was suggested that it would be helpful if Fr Vincent could attend the initial classes, to give both parents and candidates an overview, and reinforce the importance of continuing attendance at Mass and commitment to faith.

5. **Future Shared Events**

St Edmund's is holding their annual Barbeque after Mass on Sunday 16th June.
This will also be a celebration of Fr Vincent's 35th anniversary.

On Friday 5th July, St Edmund's will hold a barn dance at Upper Farm, Cherhill. Chairs are needed for this event, and **Mary will investigate the provision of chairs from Melksham** – Rob can collect. (*N.B. Since the meeting this has been resolved with the help of St Edmund's School)*
St Anthony's plan a late summer picnic at Arnold's Mill, Lacock in September; further details will be provided near the time.

It is planned to hold a celebration after the Confirmation service at St Edmund's School, Calne, for all the confirmation candidates.

It was agreed that the Holy Hour Advent sessions had been successful, and this could be repeated in 2024.

6. AOB

Rob suggested that instead of separate newsletters as at present, there could be one newsletter for both parishes. Sharon explained that at the moment, St Edmund's newsletter has to be finalised by Wednesday morning so that Fr Vincent can take the photocopies back for the weekend – this is especially important if there is no Saturday Mass at St Anthony's. St Anthony's has reduced the amount of hard copy newsletters by emailing electronic copies to those who have signed up, although there will always be a need for hard copies. Although there is similar content (Diocesan news, joint events, etc) the two newsletters are quite different at the moment, and St Anthony's is always at least 3 pages long. Both parishes would need to agree on the format and content.

It was decided to continue to discuss how a joint newsletter could work.

9. Date of next meeting:

The next joint meeting will take place on Thursday 19th September at 7.00 pm at St Edmund's church hall.

The meeting concluded with a prayer at 8.15 pm.