Minutes of the Joint Meeting of St Anthonys' and St Edmunds' Pastoral Councils

Thursday 3rd April 2025, 7.00 pm at St Anthony of Padua, Melksham

Present: Paul Blake, Joan Boorer, Fr Vincent Curtis, Patricia Davies, Aniela Downar, Anne Doyle, Gay Harris, Kathleen Joyce, Gabriel Lopez, Christine Martin, Helen Murphy, Cecilia Parsons, Sharon Pearce (minutes), Mary Rooney (chair).

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

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

2. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Linda Cassidy, Elizabeth Hitchens, Jonathan Quinlan, Brigid Rodgers, Susan Whyte.

3. **Minutes of Joint Meeting at St Edmund's on 19th September 2024 and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. The planned Advent prayer service at St Anthony's had not taken place due to poor weather.

4. **Chrism Mass**

A coach has been booked to take parishioners from both parishes to the Chrism Mass on 16th April. A 47-seater coach is necessary to ensure there is facility for a wheelchair. So far approximately 33 people have signed up to travel on the coach. Any shortfall between monies collected for travel and the cost of hire will need to be made up by joint parish funds.

5. **Jubilee Year Events**

Mary has booked a Day of Recollection at Brownshill Monastery, near Stroud, on Saturday 28th June. There will be room for a maximum of 30 people, and the day will start at 10.30am with coffee. A talk will take place at 11.00am (topic to be decided), after which we will join the community for prayer. Lunch is at 12.45, Eucharistic Adoration from 2.30pm – 3.30pm, followed by tea. The day will end at 4.00pm. There is no coach access to Brownshill, and attendees would need to arrange to car share. Lunch could be provide by the community if wishes at an increased cost of £25; if bringing packed lunches £15 is payable. **Mary will double check the costs. The event will be advertised after Easter (Sharon).** All are welcome.

At their previous PPC meeting, St Anthony's had decided to make a pilgrimage to Clifton Cathedral later in the year, and hoped that St Edmund's would join. Following discussion, it was agreed this would take place on Saturday 4th October. Transport options would be explored. **Sharon will notify the Cathedral of the date,** as they have requested for group visits.

There is a Jubilee Day arranged at Downside Abbey for 19th July, and the Glastonbury Pilgrimage is scheduled for 7th September.

The team behind “Don’t Forget the Holy Spirit” have arranged a course running from Easter to Pentecost, called Encounter. Launching at the Cathedral on 3rd May, weekly sessions will follow on Wednesday evenings, live-streamed from the Cathedral, enabling everyone across the Diocese to join in.

6. **Further Joint Events**

St Edmund’s annual parish Barbeque will be held on Sunday 29th June, after Mass.

7. **AOB**

There was no other business.

8. Date of next meeting:

The next joint meeting will take place on Thursday 25th September 2025 at 7.00 pm at St Edmund’s church hall.

The meeting concluded with a prayer at 7.50 pm.