



St Benedict's Parish

"A Place to Grow"



ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23rd January 2014

Present: Nermine George (Chair) Trish Sandbach (Prayers)
 Joanne O'Hara (Secretary) Jim Guthrie
 Karen Derbyshire Karen Collins
 Phillip Houghton Fr Gerard
 Rena Paul Alan Thompson

1.0 Welcome

2.0 Opening Prayer

Led by Trish

3.0 Apologies for absence

Monica, Susan

4.0 Approve the minutes of the last meeting

All in agreement after modifications.

5.0 Actions from previous meeting

Altar servers

AT said that a rota of people to help guide the children in the sacristy before Masses would be useful and that extra help was needed at 10am Mass. GK had an idea of someone he could ask. It was asked if adults in this role need to be DBS checked. It was thought that those chosen would already have been checked.

Teenage involvement in church

NG would still like to go forward with this. We could link in with this year's confirmation class. They were a good class for First Holy Communion so should be a good confirmation group. We could look to springboard them after confirmation. As yet we do not know how many children it will be.

6.0 A Call to Action – Leeds

Three members of the parish (Margaret Siberry, Trish Sandbach and Julie Linley) attended the second general meeting of this growing body of lay-people and clergy in our diocese. We should like to attend the next PPC meeting to share information about the organisation and also to suggest ways in which St Benedict's might want to take up some of the suggestions that were shared.

TS attended a meeting last Saturday. ACTA representatives (TS,MS,JL) would like to attend the next PPC meeting. AT said that it would help that if something is being asked of us, to know what it is in advance. Can we give them a time slot to present in.? What is ACTA? What are its roots? TS explained that the group is getting established and finding its way. It started with a group of priests in the Portsmouth Diocese raising questions of concern. These concerns then touched a chord with others. It was noted that it is not a protest group and has been approved by the hierarchy. We need a dialogue to understand the roots, but the PPC were all in agreement that they would be welcome at the next PPC meeting. It was also noted that it would help in the bulletin if parishioners knew what ACTA is about.

7.0 CAFOD Live Simply Parish Award – Trish Sandbach

This weekend parish groups are being asked to collect a letter asking them to send at least one group member to a Live Simply meeting on Tuesday 25th February 2014. The rest of the parish will also be invited to the meeting via the bulletin. The meeting will tell everyone what the award is and decide what to do with it. A representative from the PPC was requested. The award has lots of different elements, a lot of which we are doing already, but it will help to bring things together, help us to grow and to get people involved. GK stressed that we are not doing it to run the race and win the prize, but to learn and bring the parish together.

8.0 Christmas Masses – review of

GK had opened this discussion with the liturgy group and felt it was something best talked about throughout the year.

Numbers attending Christmas Masses in 2013 were as follows.

6pm Mass on Christmas Eve - too many to count.

Midnight Mass - 62

8.30am Mass on Christmas morning - 165

10am Mass on Christmas morning - 156

If we want to look at changing the time of Masses, we need to understand that it is a sensitive issue and holds a lot of sentiment.

Spiritual issues:

Prayers said are for Mass during the night and not specific to Midnight.

Do parishioners hear the prayers deeply and take them onboard? Could they be reflected on during Advent?

Social issues:

The Gascoigne pub was raided on Christmas Eve and £17,000 was stolen.

GK said that the two Masses on Christmas day have liturgies that speak to different people so these Masses should not be amalgamated.

This will be long term process of discussion and discernment that needs to be kept on the boil. GK will not be here forever and it would be easier to look at moving the Mass in a friendly way.

It was asked if those attending at midnight were regulars. It was noted that they were and attended as a tradition, but how many of them would still be attending in ten years time?

Other parishes have Mass at other times from midnight. Mass at Bethlehem was mentioned, what time is that? Could we change the time and call it Christmas Eve Mass. We should bear in mind the priest and the physical challenge of Mass times. An earlier Midnight Mass may help to split high numbers attending 6pm Mass. It is hard for families to fit things in on Christmas Day and remember the meaning and focus.

How can we engage the parish throughout the year, bearing in mind access issues? We are an ageing population and there are no bus services on Christmas Day. How do we find out who needs a lift and identify those willing to help get parishioners to church for big celebrations? Advertising our Mass times outside of Garforth could be part of the process, looking at transport links and using other village magazines.

It was agreed to put this back on the agenda for discussion in March. Members were asked to pray and talk to family and friends and bring ideas back. We need to engage people in the thought process.

9.0 Confirmation 2014

Deanery priests have met and discussed what to do this year. For the last two years parishes have joined together for a big ceremony, however that was a big undertaking.

It has been decided this year to celebrate in our own parishes at Pentecost, the birthday of the church. We will do this during 10am Mass and celebrate afterwards with a BBQ. It is not far from St Benedict's Day so we can combine the two and celebrate as a parish.

Our catechist Sammy can no longer commit to helping this year. Kathryn Senior and Cath Swain who have helped for three years have said that they need more help. A note has been placed in the bulletin asking for a volunteer who feels they can engage with young people. GK has a couple of people in mind to ask if no-one comes forward.

An advert will go out mid to late February asking for candidates. KC asked how we sell confirmation to the young. What is in it for them? Previously the sacrament of confirmation was prepared for in primary schools and in the Diocese of Salford confirmation is done at the same time as reconciliation and first communion. On average twelve children are confirmed at St Benedict's. How do we contact those at non-catholic high schools? Will the numbers be different with Pope Francis' appointment? How many are made to come by their parents? Children may be pushed by their parents, but there are other things that parents encourage their children to do because it is good for them. It was thought the children who do attend love it and that maybe teenagers just rebel because they have nothing better to do. The affirmation of young people is important. Confirmation is also open to young people older than Year 8. It was felt that it would be very good to have a teenager in the confirmation group who has already been through the process.

AOB – AT raised the subject of the 200 club and the process of involving more people in it. The subject will be raised at the next meeting.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 13th March 2014 at 7.30pm Chairperson -Karen Derbyshire
Prayers – Alan Thompson