

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES – 14.2.23
BCRH at 7.00 pm

Present:

Clergy: Father Ruscillo (Parish Priest, Chair); Father Harrison (Assistant Priest); Father Oliver (Assistant Priest)

Church Reps: Pat Cadman and Ann Watson (St A); Tina Battle (St B); James Knox (OLSJ); Kathy Holden-Smith and Carolyn Aitkin (OLSW); and Kath Cameron (St MM)

Committee Reps: Paul Lovell (Building and H&S); Tricia Turner (Safeguarding)

Apologies: Rev Bill Kirkley (Deacon); Father Etienne (Assistant Priest); Jack Johnstone (OLSJ); Sean Crilley and Greg Smith (Christ the King); Francesca Robinson (St MM); Ann Pinguet (and Finance); Vinish Maliekal (St B)

1. Welcome and Prayer

Father Ruscillo welcomed everyone to the meeting, with a special warm welcome to Father Oliver, and Father Harrison led the Opening Prayer

2. Minutes of the last Meeting (19.01.23)

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising not covered on the Agenda

House Groups

House Groups were held in the various churches before Covid - booklets were prepared, with a structure given for the meeting. The proposal to restart these groups was discussed and it was decided that, while it was too late to commence them before Lent, they will recommence once materials are to hand.

Action: The offer of holding House Groups, via the bulletin, will be given to all the churches to gauge interest.

Holy Communion for Housebound

This is now in progress with Priests visiting the housebound to give Holy Communion – there are 65 people who currently receive Holy Communion at home; there has been good feedback from those visited by a Priest; once the system is fully in place, and it becomes general knowledge, there may be a bigger take up.

4. PPC Business

Father Oliver shared his experience of the PPC in Monze

Some of the interesting points made:

- The church is described as *the family of God* in Africa
- The families are large, 5-6 people – these families become the basic church where they practice their faith in their home
- 10-20 families make a community, meeting once a week in their homes - each community does the duties of the church for one week, including looking after the priest
- There are also Lay movements in their community
- Three communities make up the PPC plus outstations (those who don't have a priest)

- Reports given to the Deanery (all Parish Priests)
- Diocesan PC made up of Deanery and PPCs
- Everyone is involved in the decision making

Comments/answers to queries:

- This all sounds very organised
- Children have their own meeting place, as do the youths and older member of the family; meet every week
- Catholic schools are from 12 years old
- Primary schools are run by the government for all children
- An interesting structure; small, Christian communities

Father Oliver was thanked for his brief but very interesting oversight of the Church in Monze

5. Reports

(1) Ann Pinguey and Paul Lovell (Buildings and Finance)

Written Finance report received from Ann

Comments/answers to queries

- Heating costs were discussed; a person is currently employed on a task to ensure each property is being charged correctly
- The full cost of the lift has been paid
- The digital plate can be used for donations and can be gift-aided; *note:* the collection is levied by the Diocese, donations are not levied by the Diocese
- Banks charge for taking cash/cheques and charge for having a bank account
- The most streamlined way of giving is by SO or DD

Action: a note to be included in the newsletter about the best way to donate

Property

- Car park St Edmunds, abandoned vehicle: reported and dealt with
 - Doorbell, rectory: reported
 - Lights and ceiling CTK: reported
 - Burglar alarm BCRH: in use, work in progress
 - CAT 5 St Augustine's: complete
- Action: CCTV signs to be displayed in each church and a record kept of usage**
- Ongoing discussions with tenants for BCRH
 - UU progression: a financial settlement will be given to BCRH within the next few weeks
 - NCP discussions: this will be on an APP system, with NCP paying BCRH rent rather than a share of the parking fees
 - Lift Installation: a few teething issues experienced; training of volunteers, etc, undertaken

(2) Tricia Turner (Safeguarding)

The PSRs have attended a training day and a meeting of all PSRs will be held, asap, to discuss the session.

New safeguarding posters were handed out on the training day and are now being displayed on church and hall notice boards.

6. Website

Now up to date - this can now be edited *in-house*, should the need arise

7. Funeral Leaflet

A simple leaflet had been prepared by Father Harrison – it contains a disclaimer, as requests are not legally binding (only a Will is legally binding)

Action: add Readings requested/leaflet to go on the website

8. Lent Service Programme

- Confessions available on a regular basis, more opportunity for Confessions will be available during Holy Week
- a penitential service will not be held this year
- Stations of the Cross are already being prayed at various services - this can be lay led before Mass:
St MM Tuesdays at 11.00 am
OLSW Fridays at 10.00 am
CtK Fridays at 12 noon
St B Fridays at 6.00 pm
St A Fridays at 6.00 pm
OLSJ Fridays at 6.00 pm

Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Sunday at 3.00 pm, during Lent:

26 February at OLSW; 5 March OLSJ; 12 March CtK; 19 March St A; 26 March St B; 2 April St MM

It has been announced in the newsletter that Lenten soup lunches will be held on each Friday in Lent after Noon Mass (in the Waterton Hall) – this is intended for the whole parish

9. Catechetical Programme for Lent

Father Etienne is organising this with a proposed programme, offering an afternoon and evening time (same session)

10. Easter Triduum plans

- Parking and transport to St B was discussed and it was agreed to put an article in the bulletin asking people if they need a lift/wish to offer a lift to the services at St Bede's
- The decision to hold one Maundy Thursday and Easter Vigil service at St Bede's has been embraced by the musicians, with misgivings expressed by some members of other churches

11. Advertising our services

This has been partially answered by updating website

Action: Item for the next Agenda

12. Altar Server's Training

This has been organised and advertised in the bulletin

13. Any Other Business

Members of the Congregation from St A have requested these issues be discussed at the PPC meeting:

(1) There have been many complaints about noise in the church during Mass – this was discussed by the PPC along with issues experienced in other churches, **and it was agreed that everyone should be made welcome at Mass**

Action: two doors to be locked at the back of church during Mass

(2) There is an issue that the heating is on in the church and the windows open

Action: close the windows when this occurs

(3) When announcing the death of a parishioner, it was requested that a photo of the person who has passed away be included in the announcement. This was discussed and it was *agreed* it was not feasible for all churches, unless someone was willing to take on the administration of this suggestion.

(4) The use of CCTV cameras has been queried and it was explained that this is to bring St A in line with the other churches.

It was *agreed* that the Confirmation service was a great success

Father Ruscillo expressed his happiness in having Father Oliver here in the parish and this was echoed by the members of the PPC

The Access Code to BCRH was given to PPC members

14. Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 21 March (changed from Thursday 23 March)

No meeting in April

Tuesday 16 May

Thursday 15 June

Thursday 20 July

15. Final Prayer led by Father Harrison