

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES – 21.3.23
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); Jack Johnstone and James Knox (OLSJ); Kathy Holden-Smith and Carolyn Aitkin (OLSW); Francesca Robinson and Kath Cameron (St MM); Greg Smith (Christ the King); and Vinish Maliekal (St B)

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

Apologies: Rev Bill Kirkley (Deacon); Ann Pinguet (and Finance); Father Etienne (Assistant Priest); Tina Battle (St B)

1. Welcome and Prayer

Father Harrison led the opening prayer and Father Ruscillo welcomed everyone to the meeting, with a special warm welcome to Vinish – the group introduced themselves.

Sean Crilley had sent his apologies and advised his decision to ‘stand down’ from the Council was due to family and work commitments.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting (14.2.23)

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. However, it was noted that the website (Agenda Item 6) is not fully updated but is ‘*work in progress*’.

3. Matters Arising not covered on the Agenda

None

4. PPC Business

A new representative will be recruited for Christ the King.

5. Reports

(1) Ann Pinguet and Paul Lovell (Buildings and Finance) *report previously circulated*

The figures were discussed generally, and it was noted that, while fuel bills have tripled, the cost of fuel has peaked and is going down.

Property issues

CTK Presbytery: ongoing

St Bede’s: Community workers and garage block: progressing well

St Edmund’s: bin store vandalism: repaired

St Edmund’s: lease amendments: by the end of March, hopefully

UU: claim

CCC: utility collection invoice BCRH: actioned and agreed

Water plus: a victory after three years

Bills standardisation for tenants: many thanks to Richard for this

BCRH: ongoing discussions with tenants

UU: progression meetings RPS and UU to discuss concession

(2) Tricia Turner (Safeguarding)

In addition to the report previously circulated, the Parish Safeguarding Rep (PSR) for St Augustine's is going away for six weeks – during this time the PSR for OLSJ/OLSW will provide cover.

6. Bishop's Visitation

Father Paul gave an overview of this visit, which is to be 24-26 June and 1-3 July 2023.

Bishop Paul will meet as many parishioners as possible, including visiting the schools, meeting the PPC and saying Mass at as many venues as possible.

The task is to put together a draft programme for the Bishop's approval/input.

Suggestions were made including:

- a social event after the 4.30 Mass on Sunday
- having a Mass for the whole parish – this would be a powerful, symbolic gesture of unity for the Parish (could use the sports hall if necessary)
- working out a timetable for the Bishop to say Mass at as many churches as physically possible
- provide transport for parishioners to attend Mass at churches other than the one they normally attend

Action: These suggestions will be considered when preparing the programme

7. House Groups *update*

It is proposed to facilitate the commencement of House Groups after Easter

Action: Material required and sign-up sheets to host and attend (different times and locations); notice to go in the bulletin

8. Lent Service Programme *update*

Attendance at Stations of the Cross in each church was discussed.

This service has proved to be valued by those attending, with the possible exception of OLSJ (Friday evening at 6.00 pm), which has not been well attended.

The Sunday service at 3.00 pm (Stations of the Cross and Benediction) has not been so well supported – parishioners perhaps being reluctant to travel to another church.

9. Catechetical Programme for Lent *update*

15-20 people have been attending these sessions and they have been valued by the group, however, it is felt the timing of these session (Thursday at 7.00 pm) is not ideal and to perhaps consider holding two sessions next time, with one in the afternoon.

10. Easter Triduum plans *update*

The details of the service times are in the bulletin.

A general discussion was held and the group were advised that the choir practices are going well, with approximately 20 people attending, and Readers has been allocated for every service.

The Altar Servers will be having a practice on the Wednesday evening

Action: to go in the bulletin

Transport difficulties to St Bede's from the surrounding areas was discussed

Action: the offer of lifts to friends/request for a lift to go in the bulletin (sign-up sheets?)

11. Advertising our services

For the next agenda

12. Altar Server's Training *update*

20 Altar Servers attended this very successful training day, with all being presented with their St Stephen's medals and being added to the National Register of Servers.

13. Any Other Business

Father Norman is organising an entertainment evening on the 5th May (the evening before the Coronation). This is to be a Parish event in St MM social centre. This is being advertised in the bulletin.

It has been announced that, from Holy Thursday onwards, communion under both kinds can be distributed – this being at the discretion of the Parish Priest. It has been agreed with OLPH clergy not to re-instate this as it is felt people are still very wary of the potential of spreading germs.

A request for regular prayers, during our Masses, for our seminarians was made.

A letter from a parishioner regarding the use of incense during Mass was read and discussed at some length. It was *agreed* that this should be reviewed seriously, to include an investigation by the *safety tool box* team.

Action: a formal response to be made

14. Dates of next meetings

No meeting in April

Tuesday 16 May

Thursday 15 June

Thursday 20 July

15. Final Prayer led by Father Harrison