

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES – 21.09.23
BCRH at 7.00 pm

Present:

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

Church Reps: Pat Cadman and Ann Watson (St A); Jack Johnstone (OLSJ); Carolyn Aitkin (OLSW); Ros Gibson and Greg Smith (Christ the King); Tina Battle and Vinish Maliekal (St B); Francesca Robinson and Kath Cameron (St MM)

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

Apologies: Rev Bill Kirkley (Deacon); James Knox (OLSJ); Kathy Holden-Smith (OLSW); Ann Pinguey (Finance)

1. Welcome and Prayer led by Father Ruscillo

2. Minutes of the last Meeting (15.6.23)

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

3. Matters Arising not covered on the Agenda

St Bede's Parish Centre: a parishioner has volunteered to check the centre twice a week

Web site: St Augustine's Vigil Mass needs deleted; Vigil Mass at WB on Holy Days of Obligation needs to be added

4. PPC Business

Nothing to discuss at present

The holding of an AGM was discussed and it was *agreed* that this is not necessary as Minutes of every meeting are displayed on notice boards and the web site, with parishioners being advised, via the Sunday bulletin, to take any concerns to their PPC Rep before each meeting.

Suggestions: Picture of PPC Reps posted on the notice board next to the Minutes; a brief lectern address by each member to introduce themselves to their congregation.

Thanks were expressed to everyone on the PPC

5. Reports

Finance:

Whilst the Annual Financial Summary is available to all parishioners, Fr Ruscillo is to speak to Ann about a more regular update to be available for the parish.

Bank charges are for banking loose cash (the use of the digital plate and setting up of Standing Orders reduces these costs).

The expenditure on flowers, choir and servers was discussed.

Good financial management means BCRH is now transferring money into the parish account; it is predicted that the loan will be fully reimbursed in 18/24 months; a loan from the Diocese still requires repayment, in due course.

Buildings

- Work continues to open St Edmund's for James Rennie, it is anticipated we will have a representative at the opening (Father Johnston).
- Discussions under way with Heads of Terms with a Tenant for the remainder of the Ground Floor BCRH
- Heating season will be starting at 17 degrees C, controlled by thermostat and clock not human feelings!
- Official opening for Carlisle United Academy: 21 September
- Breaking through and enabling works under way for BCRH
- United Utilities issue now resolved
- Longtown: the electrical supply had been left live, this is now capped and buried, cost not yet known (now on the market)
- Payback schemes: Community Service, helping out at all churches
- Other Tenants in St Bernadette Room (from New Year)
- Royal British Legion now in situ
- CCTV being upgraded and installed (including Christ the King inside and outside); some parishioners are uncomfortable about being filmed during services and while working; the PPC were advised that the recording is only reviewed if the police ask for it, otherwise, it is not viewed (the camera only records when someone is moving); the evidence provided has been used when there has been break-ins; also good for potential safeguarding issues
- Alarm to be upgraded at BCRH with new tenants
- Lock program being rolled out at St Augustine's (standardisation)
- Ongoing safety toolbox, thanks to all concerned (highest achievers is the diocese)
- Dawn to Dusk lighting discussions around Parishes; lighting at OLSJ in the evening - a photo cell at OLSJ is broken – in hand
- Harraby Catholic Club discussions; builders' compound has been there since December (letter sent)
- Flooding from bathroom into the sacristy - in hand

Safeguarding: nothing to report

6. Bishop's Visitation

The meeting with the PPC went well and was appreciated by the members; areas for improvement are being addressed

7. House Groups update

To begin in Advent; volunteers will be sought in due course

The guided material to be used is: *The Wednesday Word*

There is a proposal to hold a Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the whole Parish in October, at Christ the King, on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm and Sunday the 22nd from 9.00 to 6.00:

- there is the need for someone to be in the church during the full period of Exposition
- lists will be distributed for parishioners to sign up for at least half an hour
- the Exposition cannot go ahead if the lists aren't complete

An Exposition is meant to be a yearly event for every parish (a different church will be used each year) and is for the intentions of the parish, especially for those who no longer come to Mass.

8. Parish Social Media *discussion*

Father Harrison simply *edits* the web site and will update issues raised in Agenda Item 3, and will be removing the names of PPC members on the web site, as they are clearly displayed in the Minutes

Notice Boards outside church need updated: this will be done when tenants are in situ at BCRH, then all notice boards can be updated at the same time

WhatsApp Groups

Currently, there are three different WhatsApp group: Sacred Heart (St MM and CtK); St Augustine's; Cumbria Traditional Latin Mass

The use of the church groups was discussed and it was noted that these groups are *unofficial* (ie, not supported by the church/parish) and, as such, need to display a disclaimer saying "this WhatsApp group is not an official group of the Parish of OLPH", or change the name of the group.

9. Youth initiatives

- a. Jack Regan (in charge at Castlerigg, which currently caters for groups from schools) has been in touch, as he is looking to do more Outreach work, including with Our Lady of Perpetual Help: He would like the parish to be a partner (they would use a room downstairs at BCRH) Four volunteers will be sought to move the setting up of a parish Youth Group forward for years 6, 7 and 8 **Action: PPC members to recommend an appropriate parishioner/or to volunteer**
- b. Young persons' choir – St MM (and OLSW) do not have an organist to play the organ at weekends and to recruit a choir of young people.
Action: A suggestion has been made for an organist; work in progress

10. Diocesan Centenary

2024/25 plans are being put into place at Diocesan and Deanery level

11. The Relics of St Andrew, St Columba and St Margaret of Scotland (programme below)

A full programme for this event is in the Sunday bulletin

The Relics will be in the parish for an extra day (possibility of a visit to Austin Friars)

Three/four hymns favourite hymns are no longer in the hymn books

Action: an insert to be included in the hymn books

12. Christmas Masses

Last year's Masses were reviewed and this year's programme will include a Christmas morning Mass at OLSW

4.00 pm St A Christmas Eve – well attended

6.00 pm St B Christmas Eve – well attended

6.00 pm St MM Christmas Eve - Full

Midnight OLSJ: well attended

Usual Sunday Mass times for Christmas Day, which is on a Monday (*no 4.30 pm at OLSJ on Christmas Eve or Day*)

PLUS: OLSW 8.00 am Christmas Day

Suggestion: Parish event at the Crib in the town, to pray the Rosary (on a Saturday in Advent)

13. Syro-Malabar (and other faiths) community

With the growing number in the community in Carlisle, the Bishop of the Syro-Malabar community in Britain has asked that catechesis be undertaken – this is to be held on a Saturday (after Mass on two Saturdays in the month) – and will be open to all - it is *mandatory* in the Syro-Malabar community. Safeguarding is in process and, once complete, the sessions can commence.

Action: Copies of completed safeguarding paperwork to be given to St Bede's Parish Safeguarding Rep (Tina Battle) for filing

14. Religious in the Parish

Fr Anthony Gaskin to return to the parish as an Assistant Priest, resident at St MM.

15. Any Other Business

Distribution of the Parish Magazine:

Numbers of the magazine distributed to each church was suitable, with the exception of CtK, who request the number be reduced from 80 to 50.

It was agreed the suggested donation for the magazine should remain at £1

SVP Quiz: the Quiz starting at 7.00 pm conflicts with St B Mass time at 6.00 pm – noted for future events

St B: Mass time change on Monday means there is now no Holy Hour and Confessions

Action: the possibility of an Extra-Ordinary Minister to lead the Holy Hour to be considered

Next Agenda Item: 17th December Parish Carol Service St A (time to be discussed)

16. Date of next meeting

19 October

16 November

19 December