

St Mary's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of meeting Thursday 18th October 2018

Present:

- Fr William Wright (Chair)

Appointed

- Carmel Bridson
- Chris Clissitt
- Paul Jackson (School)
- Vince McGurk
- Simon Stockdale

Elected

- Teresa Britton (Liturgy).
- Charlotte Burrell (Formation)
- Amanda Kelly (Support)
- Sheila Lund (Interaction)
- Chris Senior (Secretary)

Apologies: Julie Finn (Mission)

1. **Opening Reading** was led by Fr. William

2. **Apologies**

As recorded above.

3. **Parish Priest introduction**

Fr William requested PPC feedback over a proposal for the Parish to collaborate in the development of a 'home schooling' initiative for a number of Catholic families from Wetherby.

Fr William summarised the initiative:

- Schooling at Secondary level only (avoid conflict of interest with St Mary's School)
- Structured as 3 Days at Home/2 Days in 'Old School' Parish Hall
- Would classify as 'home schooling' therefore exempt from OFSTED inspection
- Numbers of families and attendees not yet known, believed to be quite small
- Exploring a start date of September 2019
- Fr William saw potential to personally provide tuition and in role as Chaplain
- Parish to provide discounted hire rates for Hall facility
- Integration of these families into the parish on Sundays
- Contribute financially to the offertory income
- Provided opportunity to develop youth initiatives and enhance Parish
- Supported families with particular sensibilities over social media and children
- Families were visiting a similar established (Primary level) school in Preston to understand issues and requirements

PPC comments to the above included:

- Good child safeguarding was essential, regardless of any inspection exemption
- Greater clarity needed over benefits to Parish if it was involved beyond Hall hire income (this was roughly estimated at c £7K pa)
- Potential conflict of interest with St Joseph's Wetherby (Parish members)

- Conflict with St John Fisher's School (Secondary Catholic education intake)
- Professional doubt over adequacy of Home Schooling to satisfy Secondary level curriculum needs and the recruitment or provision of sufficient teaching staff
- Business model and financial sustainability for the initiative was currently unclear
- General sympathy for families' aims, but observed that engagement and education of best use of social media, rather than isolation, was a more appropriate strategy
- Similar concerns that 'Home Schooling' would not provide adequate social interaction and more rounded extra curriculum development of children.

Fr William thanked all for the feedback and would reflect further.

4. The minutes of the PPC meeting on 19th July 2018

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record.

5. Actions and matters arising from the PPC July 2018 meeting (not itemised in the Agenda)

5) Matters Arising from the PPC February 2018 Meeting

6) Parish Experience of the Liturgy

Fr William reported that he had met with the Formation Group members and at their suggestion had now fully adopted the term 'Children's Church' and abandoned the previously favoured 'Little Church' name for the former 'Children's Liturgy'.

Through further discussion with the group it was agreed not to include instruction in the order-of-service in 'Children's Church'.

5) Matters Arising from the PPC July 2018 Meeting

9) International Outreach Fund

Fr William outlined that sufficient safeguarding over finances for International Outreach already existed and that he would reserve the option of appointing a second fund administrator to assist Julie Finn.

5) Matters Arising from the PPC July 2018 Meeting

10) Proposed Replacement of Blinds

PPC members confirmed that the SE corner nearest the atrium door (both bottom left & top left windows) would require blinds to avoid parishioner discomfort from the sun in high Summer. This work should ideally be completed by Spring 2019.

6) GDPR: General Data Protection Regulations

Chris Clissitt showed the PPC an update of the current a) 'Groups/Lists' and b) 'Rotas/Committees' that had so-far been identified for St Marys', this promoted the suggestion of other bodies e.g. 'Confirmation Group'

CC also noted the continued uncertainty of the 'Privacy Notice' as required by the 'Data Controller.' St Mary's had Ampleforth (rather than the Diocese) as the Data Controller who should issue the statement, but inconsistencies with other Parishes under the abbey meant clarity was still being sought by CC with Ampleforth.

ACTION: Chris Clissitt to e-circulate the updated lists to all members for further consideration and suggestions, and an update over the status of the 'Privacy Notice'.

7) Friendship Group: Proposal by SVP

Fr William announced that in response to a suggestion made at the previous PPC meeting the Parish was granting a financial waiver to Hall hire fees to support this community activity.

9) Finance Report

PPC members commented that they had not received any email or report from Stephen Walker over the activity of the Finance Committee since July.

ACTION: Fr William would chase up the circulation of the c. 'July' Finance Committee notes.

All other outstanding Actions were completed, or otherwise raised as Agenda items.

6. Care for Newcomers

Fr William requested a discussion after observing newcomers more negative experiences seemingly occurring in three particular areas, Before Mass (isolation while other parishioners talked to friends); Seating only being available at the front of the Church (exposure and uncertainty of where to go e.g. during communion); and After Mass (specifically when newcomers chose to stay to meet other people but were ignored or overlooked).

Fr William requested feedback and any expansion on proposals to help correct the above situations. Discussions and suggestions included:

Before Mass:

- There should be no attempt to change or enforce silence before the start of any Mass, this not least to avoid discouraging or alienation for those attending with children.
- Instead PPC preference was for active promotion of the different 'character' of the three Sunday Masses (Sunday 10:00 AM was noisier than the quieter Sat 6:00 PM, and the essentially silent Sunday 5:00 PM)
- Advertise and encourage those seeking a quieter reflective preparation time before family mass to use the Chapel (including notices on doors).
- May be helpful to re-advertise that the Church and Chapel is 'walk in' open every day.
- Create a specific 'ministry' and rota for parishioners to actively talk to and engage with newcomers – i.e. beyond greeter's role.

Seating at Mass:

- Encourage established parishioners to occupy the front seats first.
- Sunday 10:00 AM Mass was the busiest service and seating choice was often limited.
- Was also noted that families attending 'Children's Church' often used the front rows of seats to ensure some places were reserved when they returned to Mass.

After Mass:

- The new proposed specific 'ministry' for newcomer angels (sic) should also actively talk with newcomers after Mass has ended.

ACTION: Fr William to talk to the parish about the different characteristics of our three Sunday Masses with regards the time before Mass begins, and to include a summary of this in the bulletin as a permanent fixture

7. **Finance Report**

Postponement of the next Finance Committee to November 2018 now meant that a report would be e-mailed to PPC members shortly.

ACTION: Fr William to arrange the circulation of the 'November' Finance Committee notes.

8. **School Report**

The report had been previously circulated by Paul Jackson.

PJ reported the successful refurbishment of the outdoor play area (this was an OFSTED recommendation) and a repeated call for any PPC member who may be interested in becoming a Foundation Governor at St Mary's to contact him directly.

No further comments were raised.

9. **International Outreach Update**

The report had been previously circulated by Julie Finn which showed an impressive Parish response and uptake to the new initiative.

The PPC formally thanked Julie Finn for her presentation at (September) Masses to all Parish members on the launching of *International Outreach*.

No further comments were raised.

10. **Future Meetings**

19:00 – 20:30 Thursday 28th February 2019
19:00 – 20:30 Thursday 2nd May 2019
18.00 AGM, Sunday 5th May 2019 (after 5:00pm Mass)
19:00 – 20:30 Thursday 25th July 2019
NEW 19:00 – 20:30 Thursday 17th October 2019

11. **Final Prayer**

The meeting closed with a prayer.