

St Mary's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of meeting Monday 24th February 2020

Present:

- Fr William Wright (Chair)

Appointed

- Paul Jackson (School)
- Chris Clissitt
- Simon Stockdale
- Barbara Watson

Elected

- Teresa Britton (Liturgy)
- Amanda Kelly (Support)
- Sheila Lund (Interaction)
- Jules Finn (Mission)

Paul Coman (Secretary to PPC)

• Apologies:

- Frances Watson (Formation)

1. Opening Reading and Prayer

Led by Fr. William

2. Welcome to newly elected and appointed councillors

Fr William introduced and welcomed Theresa Britton (re-elected), Sheila Lund (elected) and Barbara Watson (appointed).

3. Apologies

As recorded above. Fr William explained that Vince McGurk's absence was likely to be due to family commitments.

4. Parish Priest introduction including any information arising from the episcopal visitation

- Aspirations for the Parish Fr William outlined his 3 key aspirations for the Parish:
 - A full liturgical experience at every Sunday Mass;
 - Being sensitive to the needs of newcomers;
 - Outreach beyond the Parish to the wider world.

- Catechesis Fr William observed that the current family-based approach to Catechesis regarding preparation for The Eucharist and for Confirmation appeared to be positively linking together parents and children.
- Parish volunteering Fr William detailed the wide range of volunteering roles that supported the Parish 'behind the scenes' and expressed his gratitude to all involved. Fr William explained that he preferred not to use the term 'role' where volunteers supported the Mass itself e.g. Readers, purely because he was keen that the entire congregation felt that they had an active role.
- Episcopal visitation Fr William explained that Bishop Marcus had invited him to articulate his key aspirations for the Parish and had then expressed his support for these. Fr William also outlined the schedule of meetings and activities involving Bishop Marcus. These included Parish administrative matters, St Mary's School Matters (with PPC member Paul Jackson) and some time to explore Knaresborough itself. Fr William noted that Bishop Marcus was impressed and reassured by Paul Jackson's analysis of key issues relating to St Mary's School governance. Bishop Marcus had concelebrated each Sunday Mass and Fr William had received several very positive comments from parishioners regarding the Bishop's homily. Several PPC members echoed these. Fr William was asked if Bishop Marcus intended to visit every parish in the diocese. He responded that he understood this to be the case and that Bishop Marcus was now nearing completion of this task.

5. The minutes of the PPC meeting on 21st October 2019

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

6. Actions and matters arising from the PPC 21st October 2019 meeting (not in the Agenda)

6) Ampleforth Apology Card

ACTION: Fr William to include reference to victims of abuse within the bidding prayers

Guidance and instruction to support Readers Fr William is aware of support offered by diocesan 'scripture champions'. Bible study meetings are being held during Lent and readers are welcome to attend these.

ACTION: Fr William is to seek to arrange 'scripture champion' support for Advent.

7) PPC Democratic Representation. Fr William expressed thanks for details and photographs submitted by PPC members. There was discussion regarding the appropriate timescale for parishioners to consider nominations and the timing of both the elections and the first PPC meeting of the year and the extent to which addition of nominee photographs on the nominations list would be helpful.

ACTION: PPC members to contact Fr William with any updates regarding own details / photographs and any suggestions to enhance democratic representation

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

7. Trial period for setting aside the printed texts for Liturgy of the Word

Fr William reminded the PPC of the rationale behind the trial, explaining that the dialogic dynamic of listening and responding underlined that God was speaking directly to his people. The initiative supported one of the key aspirations for the Parish i.e. 'full liturgical experience'.

Fr William emphasised that he understood, and was keen to address, concerns raised by individual parishioners that some in the congregation would prefer to continue to refer to a printed text and/or to have access to the printed gospel reflections on the Catholic Printing Company (CPC) sheets. Discussion took place regarding the most efficacious means of doing this. It was agreed that two separate magazine racks in the Atrium would clearly signal availability of printed copies of 'next Sunday's readings' and of printed copies of 'this Sunday's gospel reflection'. It was also agreed that arrangements would be made to enable Eucharistic Ministers to collect full copies of the relevant readings.

Fr William explained that he was aware that parishioners would appreciate clear, repeated notification in advance of the trial period. He recalled that, to date, he had explained the rationale behind the initiative, and information regarding the trial period, in Advent 2019 and, subsequently, on the second Sunday of Ordinary Time.

ACTION: PPC members to make volunteers undertaking 'bulletin folding' aware of the operational detail applying to the trial period.

Fr William emphasised that the trial period will not extend beyond Easter 2020. The Parish Appraisal will subsequently gather parishioners' feedback.

ACTION: 2020 Parish Appraisal to include an invitation to provide feedback on the trial period for setting aside the printed texts for the Liturgy of the Word.

8. Submissions from parishioners to be considered by the PPC

Concern regarding communication One parishioner expressed concern that neither the 'Dowry Tour', which visited the Diocese in November 2019, nor the canonisation of Sir John Henry Newman, were communicated to parishioners. Members recalled mention of Sir John Henry Newman's canonisation at two of the three Sunday masses, but recalled also that an intention expressed to the congregation immediately prior to one Mass to sing a hymn in celebration at one Mass had not been fulfilled, either in error or through lack of time. Fr William emphasised that he took responsibility for appropriate communication of both national and diocesan events.

Concern was expressed also by one Parishioner regarding the lack of communication on fundraising and wider financial matters since April 2019. Fr William accepted that these were

important matters for communication. During discussion, PPC members explained that there are plans for forthcoming communication regarding the building loan specifically, and plans for communication on other finance matters at the close of this financial year.

Concern regarding the withdrawal of the printed word in the Year of the Word Two parishioners raised concerns regarding the withdrawal of CPC sheets for a trial period, citing a range of issues. These included personal choice for receipt of a printed text, audibility issues and the needs of parishioners who are housebound. Fr William explained that he had been able to talk with one of the concerned parishioners and hoped that steps outlined in item 7 above would help address these.

Concern regarding invitation to stand during Eucharistic Prayer Two parishioners raised issues. These included the view that this is 'irregular', restricts personal choice, has the potential to confuse and disorient visitors, creates potential visibility problems for the young and involves new physical requirements for the elderly. Fr William explained that he had been able to talk through concerns with one of the parishioners. Fr William confirmed that the invitation to stand during the Eucharistic Prayer during the Easter season will NOT be issued this year.

Concern regarding the Parish fulfilling its General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) obligations Issues raised by one parishioner included the potential that continued use of the Ampleforth email address created for information to be held by that charity inappropriately. It was suggested by the Parishioner that the Ampleforth email address not be used for any Parish business and that a direct approach to Ampleforth on this matter may be helpful. Fr William accepted that any non-compliance with GDPR is something that must be addressed as soon as possible.

9. 2020 Parish Appraisal

Item deferred until next PPC

ACTION: Fr William to place 2020 Parish Appraisal on the PPC Agenda for meeting on 4th May 2020.

10. Finance Report

The report by Chris Clissit had previously been circulated to members.

- Chris highlighted key points.
- The surplus for this financial year is likely to be a little higher overall, with publicity surrounding the change of Parish bank account being so successful that, rather than losing some revenue as anticipated, there had been an increase in total anticipated from new declarations and new gift aid commitments.
- The fundraising component of income is running slightly lower than last year. Members suggested that the dip in fundraising income appeared, in large part, to be due to cancellation of last summer's barbecue, following poor ticket sales.

- Repairs to the church floor will constitute a major item of expenditure over the next 3-5 years.
- Fr William asked PPC members to encourage wider attendance and engagement with fundraising activities.

11. School Report

The report by Paul Jackson had previously been circulated to members.

- Paul Jackson highlighted key points. Ofsted deemed St Mary's School as 'Good'. Ofsted delivered very positive verbal feedback.
- The school faces demographic challenges, specifically the low birth and baptism rates. Additionally, national funding cuts regarding Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision impacts heavily on St Mary's which has a relatively high proportion of children with SEN.
- The governing body is exploring avenues that would generate higher numbers on roll, including potential positive impact of a nursery linked to the school. However, there are major obstacles to securing initial capital investment for such a project.

12. PPC guidelines and constitution (October 2019 revision)

October 2019 changes were approved.

13. Future Meetings

Reminder of dates

PPC (all Monday 19.00)

04 May 2020, 20 July 2020, 19 Oct 2020

Proposed dates

22 Feb 2021

03 May 2020 AGM

14. Final Prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer.