

# Our Lady's and St Peter Apostle Parish Pastoral Council

## Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Our Lady's Hall

**Present:** Fr John Cross, Ira Winter, Deacon David Palmer, June Palmer, Sarah Vaughan, Pat Reddin, Claudia Pallister, Richard Gordon, Jeremy Lampitt, Sandy Tansey, Jo Mander and Sue Sugars.

**Apologies:** Mary Rouse, Paul Wellicome, Sean McCartan, Erin Doughty and Caroline Graham.

1. Fr John opened the meeting with the prayer from the World Meeting of Families.
2. Ethna Pettigrew and Mary Cashman have both resigned from membership of the Parish Pastoral Council. They were thanked for their contributions.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

#### 4. Matters Arising

- a) The PPC agreed to send flowers to Kate Tennyson to thank her for the contribution she has made to the PPC over a number of years. **Action: Ira Winter**

#### 5. Review of the Actions Tabled at the Last Meeting

- a) Mary Rouse has contacted the members of the OL Hall sub-committee to arrange a meeting to look at the requirements and possible uses for a new hall and will report back at the next meeting. **Action: Mary Rouse**
- b) Deacon David has started putting together a grant application for a feasibility study. **Action: Deacon David**
- c) SPAN are still looking for a new treasurer.
- d) Ira again asked members, who haven't already done so to send her a photo with a few words for the new web-site. **Action: All**
- e) Fr John is to organise a suitable time to present the Bene Merenti medal to Peter Dale. **Action: Fr John**
- f) The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Fr John (4<sup>th</sup> July) and Fr Christopher Greaney (25<sup>th</sup> June) is coming up this year. They are planning to hold a joint Mass in celebration on Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup> at 3pm followed by a reception. Fr John will invite OL's and St P's choirs to sing together. The PPC will help to organise it. Ira will form a small sub-committee to oversee this. **Action: Ira Winter**
- g) 10 people have signed up for the Parish pilgrimage to Walsingham 21 – 25 May. There are still some twin rooms available.
- h) Mary Rouse reported back on the accommodation that is available at Buckfast Abbey, if the Parish would like an overnight stay. For a retreat they can take 18 people for a donation. For larger groups there are 33 rooms in a hotel for £79 per night for a double or twin (single occupancy) or £89 per night double occupancy including a full English breakfast. Fr John asked if we could get a quote for a coach to take us on a day trip at the end of August to compare the options. **Action: June Palmer**

- i) Pat is to follow up on any outstanding pledges for the Youth worker and a new appeal will be made for this year. **Action Pat Reddin.**  
David is to put together a report of the youth initiatives, showing the fruit that has come from Erin's first year in the post. This will be used to create a new appeal for funding for the youth work within the Parish. **Action: Deacon David**

### **6. Report on the Youth Work**

Erin had produced a written report, a copy is attached at the end of these minutes. The PPC thanked Erin for all her hard work in the Parish and schools. The Youth Mass was praised. She has been asked to do a difficult job but we are now starting to see good things developing. Sarah suggested that Erin contact all the children who are being confirmed this year to personally invite them to the Youth events.

### **7. World Meeting of Families and Eucharistic Congress**

Fr John reported on the World Meeting of Families initiatives that were outlined at the last Deanery meeting. June and David will look at how these can be introduced in the parish.  
**Action: Deacon David and June Palmer**

### **8. The new format newsletter and web-site.**

These have both been well received.

### **9. A.O.B.**

- a) There was a discussion regarding how to build up the community spirit at St Peter's and encourage people to attend events. A number of suggestions were made:
- Try to find suitable people to form a social committee and run 'fun' events that are also fund-raising. **Action: Pat Reddin**
  - At suitable times e.g. Pentecost the welcomer could ask parishioners to introduce themselves to others next to them in the pews and invite them to coffee after Mass.
  - Plan more multi-cultural events.
  - Find out what sort of socials the parishioners at St Peter's would like.
- b) The Saturday Friendship group are looking for more volunteers.
- c) The UCM group at St Peter's has folded but there is a Mothers' Prayers group in the parish that is flourishing.
- d) There was a discussion about the Presbytery at Our Lady's. It is currently being renovated with a view to it being used to help Catholics in the Parish but no final decision has been made on its use.
- e) The remit of the buildings committee was clarified. It is an advisory body for Fr John on matters relating to the churches and halls in the Parish.
- f) Our Lady's would like to take part in the Heritage Open Day. Jo will contact the office at St Peter's to see how we can achieve this. **Action: Jo Mander**
- g) There is to be a joint meeting of the SVP conferences from OL's and St P's to discuss merging the two groups.

**10. Dates of the next 2 meetings:** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June 7pm at Our Lady's  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 7pm at St Peter's main hall

## A snapshot of Youth Ministry - March 2018

### **Schools work:**

Lenten Projects with St Joseph's and St Patrick's were very successful. They included developing some tactile prayer stations with the students of St Joseph's Chaplaincy team for the Stations of the Cross. They were then prayed by the students of St Joseph's and also two classes and the Liturgy team from St Patrick's at St Patrick's. This was really well received by students and staff alike. I would like to develop this form of creative collaboration further.

At St Patricks I worked with the Liturgy team to help them put their plans (which we developed together) for prayer, fasting and almsgiving during Lent. Plans included a coffee afternoon, which I am very grateful to parishioner for supporting! A prayer service for the reception class, an assembly on Almsgiving and creative ideas for encouraging the whole school to double donations to St Chad's Sanctuary during Lent. St Patrick's also had their section 48 inspection during March, I was interviewed by one of the inspectors who was really interested in and impressed with the youth ministry project here in Leamington. They are awaiting their results, but all went well.

At Trinity I worked with some of the Chaplaincy team to run Light Fever during lunch times. This is a time of invitational Adoration. We ran it twice over the two lunch times and saw nearly 90 students and staff during each 25 minute time slot. I also accompanied some of the Chaplaincy team on a training day held by the Kenelm Youth Trust. This has given me a really great opportunity to support the students in their hopes for Chaplaincy in their school.

Plans for next term at Trinity include establishing a Catholic life group made up of Staff, Governors, the Chaplain, Fr Patrick, and myself and also starting a breakfast Youth Alpha. Students from the Chaplaincy team have expressed a desire to begin a lunchtime lecture series on matters of faith. **So if we have any contacts who would speak well to young people on topic's such as faith and reason, science and belief, Catholic Social teaching etc in 20 minutes I would love to hear about them so I can support getting this initiative off the ground.** I also intend to offer Light Fever to all the primary schools next term and I have been asked to help with a retreat day for the Confirmation class at Our Lady and St Teresa. **If anyone has any ideas for collaboration and integration of the schools with the wider life of the parish I would be very open to hearing your ideas.** This is going to be an ongoing focus in the year ahead.

### **Youth Mass:**

Our first youth Mass on Palm Sunday went really well. An enormous thank you to Caroline Graham for leading the music so ably. There was a great participation of young people in all aspects of the Mass. The readers were all complimented by many parishioners. Fr Andy tells me that the number of people in attendance for that Mass were double the usual amount. I felt it was a great start and I look forward to building this over the next few months. We are going to have a regular music practice to support the development of a youth band.

### **Summit Prayer Group:**

This regular prayer group is going from strength to strength. We have three new members who are there because two of the group spoke in class to invite their peers to join. I am very proud of our young people for this open generous attitude. Other fruits of this regular meeting include the response of the young people to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent. 80% of the group took up this opportunity and it was clearly a significant sacramental moment for them. The group have also requested opportunities to pray more together so starting next week we will be gathering 20 minutes early each week so as to learn and pray other prayers such as the Divine Office, the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Socially they are really starting to gel as a group, and form significant friendships based on a shared faith. This is beautiful to watch unfold.

## Coming up:

- Fearless Retreat next weekend - 15 signed up to go - not just the usual suspects.
  - Youth Mass - Last Sunday of April
  - Launch of Parish Youth Council
  - Parish Youth Room - as of next weekend the Flint room will become my office and a space for the young people of the parish to adopt as their own gathering space.
- A focus on recruiting volunteers - **let me know if you or anyone you know can offer some support.** I am most especially keen to develop a core team so I can offer a weekly catechetical youth group. You do not have to have all of the answers, but be willing to learn, grow and have heart for young people.

Prayers for all of these things would be most gratefully received.

Erin