

Minutes of the Meeting of the Catholic Leamington Parish Pastoral Council

Held on 4th April 2019 at Our Lady's Hall

Present: Fr John Cross, Fr Andrew Franklin, Deacon David Palmer, Ira Winter, June Palmer, Sarah Vaughan, Liz Mullis, Hazel Simmons, Patrick Reddin, Sandie Tansey, Laura Simmons and Salvatore Monastero.

1. The meeting opened with prayers.
2. **Apologies were received from Emma Rayment and Brian Malone**
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
4. **Matters Arising from the minutes**
There were no matters arising from the previous minutes that were not covered by the agenda.
5. **Election of Officers**
The following officers were elected for a one year period:
President – Fr John Cross
Vice- President - Fr Andrew Franklin
Secretary – June Palmer
Chairman – Ira Winter
The position of vice-chairperson will be elected at the next meeting. Fr Andy will ask Brian Malone if he would like to be considered for this role.
6. **Ratification of the Constitution**
There was some discussion over the wording of point 8 of the Constitution. Fr John was concerned that the Parish Council would cease to exist if there was no priest in charge of the parish and in those circumstances the Parish Council might be expected to take a greater role in ensuring the smooth running of the parish. As there would always be a priest, dean or bishop ultimately responsible for the parish the Parish Council could continue to function under their authority and advise or help in whatever way was required. No amendment was made to point 8.
The Constitution was unanimously ratified by the PPC.
7. **Report on the Youth Work**
 - a) Emma Rayment was unable to attend the meeting and had submitted a written report. The Parish Council are very grateful for her hard work in support of the young people and were impressed by her clear report and how much she has achieved in a short time.
 - b) There was some discussion about helping Emma to engage with more of the Primary schools so that there could be better links between the Parish and the schools, to deepen the faith of the children and their families and also to encourage more Catholic young people to go to Trinity School. Fr John is to ask Emma to set up a meeting with himself, Fr Andy, Fr Chris and Fr Noel and all the heads of the Catholic Primary schools so that he can get them together to discuss a way forward and plan how to help the schools to work more closely with the parish. This would also be an opportunity to encourage their children to join the

youth initiatives in the parish and for the parish to offer help with the Sacramental Preparation in the schools. The Catholic primary heads do get together occasionally at cluster meetings and it was suggested that it might be easier for the clergy to go to one of these with Emma rather than try to find a time when they are all available. It was also suggested that Emma's report on youth work should be sent to the heads when requesting the meeting.

c) Sarah is to ask St Peter's school to publicise the new youth group that is starting in May for years 5 and 6.

d) The clergy are very happy with Emma's work and although she was originally employed on a temporary basis, they would like her to continue in the role. If the job expands then there is the option of employing another person part-time to help. One of Emma's tasks is to try to find more volunteers from within the parish to help with the youth work.

8. The Parish Social Sub-Committee

It was agreed that Patrick Reddin would call a meeting of the St Joseph's, St Peter's and Our Lady's (Kindaid) Social Committees on behalf of the Parish Council and ask them to work more closely together when planning events to ensure that there is a mixture of different social and fund-raising events at different venues spread through the year. It will be up to them if they want to put on joint events or run their own fund-raisers but they can help each other with publicity and promotion at all the churches. They will be asked to create a calendar for the coming year with the planned social events listed. June will let Patrick have the contact details of one of the Kindaid members and Fr Andy will let him know who has volunteered from St Joseph's.

9. Areas where the Pastoral Council can support the clergy

a) Fr John has asked the Parish Council to come up with ways that they can help to support the clergy. He emphasised that the Churches in Catholic Leamington had worked well together in the last few years and a great deal has been achieved in getting them working together. He feels that we are pioneers in the diocese and need to continue to look at how our parishes can continue to flourish despite the declining number of priests.

b) One of the main areas that has already been identified is getting more volunteers from the parish to help with the day to day upkeep and running of the churches and liturgy. This is wide ranging and areas that were mentioned include dealing with workmen who come to fix the boiler, sacramental preparation (particularly the Baptism team), taking Holy Communion to the sick, being part of the building committee, helping to create service booklets, liaising with the schools and also bereavement counselling. Fr John asked the PPC to help him find suitably experienced people for the buildings committee. There was some discussion on how to get more volunteers generally. It was suggested that we have a drive one weekend where we give people lists of jobs and ask them to sign up. This might encourage a few people but it might be more effective to look at resources that help Catholics to recognise their gifts and encourage them to use them to build up the Church. The Portsmouth diocese is running a scheme at the moment. June will look at whether any of these resources could be used in Leamington. The book 'Forming Intentional Disciples' by Sherry Weddell was mentioned. At the last meeting Emma mentioned an initiative to help parishioners to recognise their strengths. June will ask her about this initiative.

c) Bearing in mind that the priests are responsible for the governance of the Parish, Fr John suggested that a small sub team be formed to talk to the priests and look at ways that the laity can take over some of the day to day mundane tasks that the clergy are doing so that

they can concentrate on the important ministries that they have been ordained to fulfil. The sub-team – David, Ira, June and Sarah will report back with suggestions on how to move forward on this to the Parish Council for discussion at the next Council meeting.

Subsequent to the meeting Fr John and Fr Andy have decided to give more direction to this sub-team and will develop some guidelines for them to take this forward.

d) Another big area where laity can be involved is in evangelisation. There is a Deanery evangelisation group who meet regularly at St Peters, currently this includes a very small visiting team. With the new housing estates being built around Whitnash there is an opportunity to welcome new residents to the area and invite them to our Masses. Peter Dimambro will be asked if they can produce a flyer to put through the letterboxes giving details of the Parish. Fr Andy said that they could arrange for their newsletters and posters to be put up on the local Notice Boards around Whitnash, and asked if this is possible in the other parts of Leamington. Fr John will ensure that the Easter service times will be printed in the local newspaper.

10. Any Other Business

a) With three clergy, the youth worker and 10 members of the laity on the PPC it was agreed that more representation from the laity was needed. The Constitution says that there should be between 15 and 20 members. Currently there are 5 members from St Joseph's, 1 from Our Lady's and 3 from St Peter's. One member goes to both Our Lady's and St Peter's. Further representation from Our Lady's and St Peter's would be sought.

b) Fr John clarified that all Parish groups who use The Dormer Centre for meetings and events have now been requested to make a donation towards the cost of running the Centre, if at all possible. Non Parish groups continue to be charged a fee for hiring rooms. This was to offset the running costs of maintaining the Centre.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 27th June 2019 7pm at St Joseph's