

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**Present:** Fr Alex, Peter Finkel and Theresa Finkel (Ch), Chris Danes, Damien O'Brien, Maureen Thompson, Lucy Dudley, Simon Chappell

**1. Opening Prayers.**

**2. Apologies:** Marina Smith, Mark O'Connell, Con McHugh

**3. Minutes:** the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were approved.

**4. Matters Arising:** None

**5. Feedback from Sub-Committees:**

**Faith in Action (FIA):** (11 attended, 7 apologies)

General feedback (matters discussed and comments);

- The Arch-Bishop's Pastoral Letter and subsequent Deanery (Clergy and Laity) and Deanery Pastoral Council meetings.
- Abbot's Visitation Report: Committee was very supportive of our Parish and activities and felt that the Report did not contribute anything
- Proposals for Youth Activities: it is proposed to have a Special Mass for the Confirmation Class (and families) together with a celebration in the Parish Room which will provide an opportunity to seek their views.
- Remembrance Garden at Our Lady of Peace: a long-term project for which support from local businesses is being sought.
- Communication Strategy: Groups are encouraged to speak at Masses about their activities to encourage volunteers. The Bereavement Team has done this and have acquired two new members and SVP plan to have a speaker in September.
- Social Ideas: a St Gregory the Great Feast Day social event is proposed for 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at the School after the 5.30pm Mass.
- Raising Fire Awareness: a work in progress
- The need for volunteers: there are opportunities for publicising the need in the Bulletin. Social media/youth club present opportunities to encourage young people to participate.
- First Aid Course: four attended.

**Liturgy and Faith Development (L&FD):**

General feedback (matters discussed and comments):

- Polish Community: Committee reinforced their desire for representation on Council and Committees
- Altar Servers: looking for ways for children to graduate from Children's Liturgy to Altar serving.

- First Communions: query whether children should receive communion as a group or as individuals with their families. General support for the first option
- Support for the idea of a Confirmation Reunion Mass in October
- Eucharistic Ministers' Retreat: support for future such Retreats to be Parish Retreats with a session exclusive to Eucharistic Ministers
- Baptismal Courses: support for future such courses to be for parents only and to be pre-Baptism
- RCIA Course: 2 candidates for the course commencing in September with Nulagh and Mandy
- Music: Kathy and Elaine are helping to encourage music at the school
- Bible Group: It was asked whether we are training the parish in the new Lectionary? It was agreed that the "Universalis App." be investigated.
- Readers: Mary Watson to be asked to give a training session. It was agreed that School Readers be invited.

## **6. The Arch Bishop's Pastoral Letter**

The Letter and Minutes of the various Deanery meetings of Clergy and Laity and the Deanery Pastoral Council (DPC) are on the website. The Arch Bishop has instructed the drawing up of a Constitution for the DPC which is being scrutinised by lawyers. It is intended that there be consistency between the DPC Constitution and the Constitutions of Parish Pastoral Councils. This may mean that our own Constitution will require amendment. The DPC is in the course of collecting statistics (Mass attendances etc.) about Parishes (and in response to a question, Fr Alex confirmed this includes the Polish Community). DPC meetings are to increase in regularity and will supersede meetings of Clergy and Laity. In response to a suggestion by Fr Alex, it was agreed that our own PPC meetings increase to 4 per year. There are soon to be meetings between parishes in our cluster (group).

## **7. Car park (opposite St Gregory's)**

Concerns were expressed that the Car parking arrangements are vague and with new management, there is a need for clarity to avoid problems. The new management organisation is to put up signage but there is a need from Parishioners' point of view to clarify when they can park without payment when attending Church. A request was made for a clear statement to be included in the Bulletin.

## **8. Our Lady of Peace Building Works**

A Schedule of Works is out for Tender. There are 6 interested parties and tenders are returnable by the end of July. On receipt, a meeting of the Building Committee will be convened. In the meantime, the hedges will be trimmed back to improve visibility.

**9. Parish Finances**

Discussions, centred on the non-availability of the Minutes of the meetings of the Finance Committee, the Parish Accounts and Collections information and it is felt that there needs to be a representative of the Finance Committee on the PPC. Fr Alex confirmed that a financial statement is available in the foyer with information up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. Council requested that information about collections income be produced weekly or monthly and that a Treasurer's Report be submitted to the AGM. Fr Alex will discuss these matters with the Finance Committee.

**10. AGM 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

It was agreed that the AGM be postponed until the end of the probationary period of 18 months in view of the developments following the Arch Bishop's Pastoral Letter.

**11. Polish Community**

Dealt with in comments in 5 above (Liturgy and Faith Development)

**12. Fr Clement Trustees.**

Chair expressed concern about whether the Trustees were receiving sufficient support and also suggested it would be a good idea if there was more information available about progress at St Paul's Orphanage. Chris Danes agreed to make enquiries and report back.

**13. Safeguarding**

Mark had given apologies that he could not attend because of work commitments.

**14. Any Other Business:**

- Maureen discussed the possibility of a pilgrimage to Medjugorje.
- It was agreed that small task groups formed to progress/take matters forward would be of benefit, e.g., for social events (to avoid the load falling on one person). The advantages of networking and involving key people were also acknowledged.
- Chris expressed the need to redraft the Constitution in the light of developments following the Arch Bishop's Pastoral Letter.

**15. Date of next meetings.**

Faith In Action Committee 16.10.24 and 15.1.25

Liturgy and Faith Development 23.10.24 and 22.1.25

Parish Pastoral Council 30.10.24 and 29.1.25

## **16. Closing Prayers.**