

ST MARY'S WOOLHAMPTON PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting 10th December 2008

Present: Fr. Benedict, Niki Bhamra, Sandra Brewester, Kate Burke, Geralyn Collins, Joanna Harrison (chair), Barbara Jones, Sean Murphy, Paul Paniccia, Annalisa Webb.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Tom Huelin.

2. The meeting opened with prayer

3. **The minutes of the previous** meeting were approved as a true account of the proceedings.

4. Matters Arising & Review of Actions

The Council agreed to combine Matters Arising and Review of Actions as a single agenda item.

a) **New PPC Members** - There was a discussion on the process of identifying new individuals to serve on the PPC. It was agreed that Fr. Benedict would speak to those who had expressed a willingness to serve on the Council. There were two potential candidates at Pangbourne and one at Woolhampton had expressed willingness to share attendance at PPC meetings with Sean Murphy. No new candidates had been identified at Burghfield, Theale or the Abbey Church community.

Action: Fr Benedict

An alternative was to identify and appoint new members who would positively contribute to the work of the PPC irrespective of which church community they came from. Membership of the PPC would not then necessarily reflect equal representation from each of the four churches. If it transpired that there were no members from one or more of the churches the lack of a personal link between the PPC and the respective local church would present a communication problem.

b) **Advent Reconciliation** service for young people and families of the parish had taken place, but attendance was disappointing with only 5 children and 2 mothers attending.

c) **Parents Support Group** - Confirmation of arrangements were given for the inaugural meeting on 28th January 2009 at Douai. Posters had been produced and needed to be distributed throughout the parish.

Action: Annalisa Webb/Parish Office

d) **Contacting Parish Priest in Emergencies** – It was explained that when phoning the parish office out of hours a contact telephone number was given at the end of the recorded message. This number would connect to a member of the monastic community. Failing a response from the monastic community the next course of action is to contact the priest in one of the adjoining parishes. All need to be reminded that these days accessibility to Catholic priests is more restricted than in previous times. It was agreed that an announcement clarifying emergency call arrangements would be made at all Masses and a laminated notice listing contact telephone numbers of neighbouring parishes be placed on all notice boards.

Action: Fr Benedict/Parish Office

e) **First Holy Communion 2009 dates** – Woolhampton: 14th June with Abbot Geoffrey celebrating, Theale: 20th June, Burghfield: 21st June unless the 2 candidates join the others at Woolhampton the previous week. There are no candidates at Pangbourne. The Council was also reminded of the 40th anniversary celebration of St Luke's, Theale on Saturday 27th June to which all the parish are invited.

f) **Day of Recollection** – to be led by Fr. Paul King on 13th June 2009 at Douai. It was agreed that lunch will be provided by the Abbey in the refectory. The parish would subsidise the cost of the day so that participants would contribute £12 per head. The number of participants is restricted to 20 and the event is open to serving members of the PPC and church committees at the time of the day of recollection. Any places not taken up may be offered to former PPC and church committee members.

5. Formulation of Verbal Communication to the Church Communities

The following statement was composed to be communicated on the weekend of 20th/21st December 2008:

The inaugural meeting of the Parish Support Group for parents and grandparents will take place on Wednesday 28th January 2009 at Douai commencing at 7.30 p.m. The aim of the group is to assist those involved in passing on the faith to young people through addressing questions and sharing experiences relating to this matter. All parents and grandparents are cordially invited to attend this important new initiative in the parish.

It can be confirmed that there will be a pilgrimage to Rome to mark the year of St. Paul which will consist of a five night stay from Thursday 30th April to Tuesday 5th May. The cost and itinerary are currently being finalised. If you are interested in going please let your pastoral council representative know who will provide you with more information in due course.

6. Year of St. Paul – Parish Pilgrimage to Rome

The Council was presented with a quotation based on figures supplied by Anthony R Coles Travel & Conferences for a three-night stay in a Rome hotel for the period 1st - 4th May 2009. Options were provided for 3 different carriers and either bed & breakfast or half-board accommodation. Prices, based on an exchange rate £1 = €1.20,

including airport transfers in Rome, booking fee and supplement to cover costs of accompanying parish priest:

- Double/twin room bed & breakfast £392 - £537 per person
- Double/twin room half-board £439 - £584 per person
- Single room bed & breakfast for single person £459 - £604
- Single room half-board for single person £506 - £651

The range of costs resulted from the variation in ticket prices of the different airlines operating a service to Rome from Heathrow or Gatwick.

After discussion it was agreed that the pilgrimage should be a five-night stay in Rome from Thursday 30th to Tuesday 5th May 2009 and that the preferred carrier is British Airways. Anthony Coles would be approached to ascertain the availability of accommodation for these revised dates and to provide a firm quotation based on British Airways as carrier.

Action: Paul Paniccia

The Council was made aware that St. Oswald's Burghfield are planning a Lent course for 2009 based on Pauline themes to mark the Year of St. Paul which will be open to all members of the parish.

7. Any Other Business

Safeguarding – The Council was reminded that an audit would take place during the course of next year. There are still individuals at Pangbourne and Burghfield undertaking the extraordinary ministry of communion who had not submitted the requisite documentation for the CRB clearance process despite reminders about the need to do so. It was stressed that no one could undertake this ministry unless they had completed the CRB clearance process.

Action: Local Safeguarding Co-ordinators

The Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 21st January 2009 at Douai Abbey when the main item for discussion will be Friday Self-Denial.

Dates of future PPC meetings are:
Wednesday 18th February 2009
Wednesday 18th March 2009

The meeting closed with prayer.

Chair.....

Secretary.....

Date.....