

# **ST MARY'S WOOLHAMPTON PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of meeting 17<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

**Present:** Fr. Benedict, Kate Burke, GERALYN COLLINS, Joanna Harrison (chair), Barbara Jones, Paul Paniccia, Midge Robinson, Annalisa Webb.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies received from Niki Bhamra, Sandra Brewster, Sean Murphy

Midge Robinson from Burghfield, deputised for Niki Bhamra.

### **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**

None

### **5. Formulation of Verbal Communication to the Church Communities**

The following was formulated to be communicated on the weekend 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> September:

Progress of a number of initiatives in the Parish was reviewed at a recent Pastoral Council meeting. Key initiatives have been parish youth ministry, RCIA, CRB process, support for marriage and family life, passing the faith on to children and bereavement support. Further details are given in the Council minutes available at the back of the Church or on the parish website.

In order that the Parish Pastoral Council can assist in enriching parish life to help parishioners grow spiritually it would welcome continuing feedback in the form of questions and comments, anonymously if preferred, through the use of the suggestion box in the church. This autumn there is an opportunity for new members to serve on the Pastoral Council from early 2009 by proposing names, through the local church committee, to the parish priest. It is hoped that you will give serious consideration to these requests in order that the Council may better serve the parish.

### **6. Review of Actions from the last meeting**

Actions are still ongoing.

## **7. Support Group for Children's Faith Formation**

Meetings would be of a social, informal nature to explore issues of the Catholic faith. It was suggested that resources could be obtained from the K.I.T. website ([www.kit4catholics.org.uk](http://www.kit4catholics.org.uk)). The format would be to open the meeting with a spiritual component such as a biblical reflection, rosary or other devotion, proceed to light refreshments and then to introduce the theme followed by informal discussion.

Suggested themes included:

- Discussing the faith with children
- Signs and symbols and their meaning
- Understanding the liturgy
- Children coping with a premature or sudden death

Initially, the target group would be parents of former and current First Holy Communion candidates.

A concern of the Council was that the preparation and facilitation of the meetings should not fall to a single individual.

Venues were discussed. It was agreed that the initial meeting would be at Douai Abbey, but subsequent meetings would take place in other parts of the parish on a rotating basis or, possibly, settling on Theale as the most centrally located venue in the parish.

Questions of frequency of meetings and whether they would be time limited were also discussed. No conclusion was reached. It was agreed that the subject of the Support Group would need further discussion and this would be the main agenda item at the November 2008 PPC meeting.

## **8. Any Other Business**

It was reported that 20 children have been registered for the First Holy Communion course commencing in October.

**The Next Meeting** will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at Douai Abbey when the main item for consideration will be to discuss the idea of a day of recollection for members of the PPC and church committees.

Future dates for meeting, subject to confirmation:

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008

The meeting closed with prayer.

Chair.....

**Secretary.....**

**Date.....**