

ST MARY'S WOOLHAMPTON PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting 10th February 2010

Present: Joanna Harrison (PPC chair), Fr Benedict, Paul Barras, Gill Reid, Maureen Howard, Marc Servais and Greg Vickers,

1. **The meeting opened with prayer**
2. **Apologies** were received from Kate Burke, GERALYN COLLINS and Sean Murphy.

The minutes of the previous meeting (9th December 2009) were accepted.

4. Matters Arising

- (a) **Prayer of the Faithful (Intercessory Prayer)** – PB tabled draft guidelines for comments. A helpful discussion of the paper followed.

Agreed actions:

- (i) PB would make the minor adjustments to the draft and email the amended version to the Parish Office.
 - (ii) Copies of the guidelines will then be printed for all readers in Parish churches.
 - (iii) Fr Benedict's intention will be to launch the guidelines at or just after Easter.
 - (iv) In order to facilitate the launch, members of the PPC will discuss the new guidelines with the various readers in the churches at which they are based. Of course, members would only have these discussions after the minutes of this meeting have been agreed and signed off.
- (b) **Stewardship** – discussion was tied in with item 7 (*Living Our Faith*). GR was asked to report on a Diocesan meeting held to extend the implementation of this initiative that she and a few others from the Parish had recently attended. She said that they had received very positive reports of the initiative from clergy throughout the Diocese. Nevertheless, our representatives remained sceptical regarding the policy of directly approaching wealthy parishioners that was the policy elsewhere. JH reported that the majority of parishes were in the same position as us: that is, at the early stages of introducing the initiative. The concern expressed was if we followed the fund raisers' policy of directly approaching members of the parish for donations, apart from the associated moral issue of a lack of openness, there was the real possibility that we would lose those parishioners' support.

Discussion moved on to how we should now respond to an initiative that no one disputed was for the common good. We are required to raise £60k over the next five years, 25% of which will come back to the Parish.

Agreed Actions:

- (i) The Parish would adopt an open policy of informing the congregation as a whole at Sunday Masses of the need to raise these extra funds under this initiative, and at the same time invite parishioners to give what financial support that they felt comfortable to provide.
 - (ii) GV will compose a form of words to launch the initiative. He will speak at Burghfield. In due course persons will be chosen to speak at the other churches using the GV's words.
 - (iii) Fr Benedict will preface what is said by preparing an insert for the Newsletter to go out on the Sunday at which the initiative is launched.
 - (iv) Fr Benedict will be in touch again with the Fund raisers to inform them of this Parish's approach and to seek copies of the relevant Standing Order forms.
 - (v) At the next meeting of the PPC further practical details will be discussed, including the date of the launch, GV's form of words and those who will speak in the other churches (see above). Fr Benedict will report back on his discussions with Cindy from the Fund raisers.
- (c) **SVP** - There had been a very good response from the whole Parish and despite the bad weather the meeting of the newly formed parish-wide SVP took place at 7pm on Monday 25th January 2010. A further meeting is scheduled for the afternoon of the 11th February.
- (d) **Safeguarding** – By October 2010 everyone in Ministry must be both CRB checked and have safeguarding training. GR reported that the training is of high quality and very worthwhile. Fr Benedict requested that everyone who receives training should receive a certificate and forward it to the Parish Office. Contact will be made with the Diocese to ensure that certificates are issued.

5. Formulation of Verbal Communication to the Church Communities -

It was agreed that there would be no announcements for the time being,

6. PAPC Feedback – there was no report this meeting.**7. 'Living Our Faith'** – dealt with in item (4) above.**8. Any Other Business**

Membership of PPC - It was agreed that this will be dealt with at the next meeting, ie nominations for Chair and Secretary from April 2010.

Future meeting dates - decided – see below.

Consideration of the group's spiritual direction: PB will see whether there are any free weekend dates in the summer for a Day of Reflection and Fr Benedict will see whether he can find a suitable spiritual guide for the day.

The Parish Bulletin: MS is continuing to work on our bulletin in order to make it more inclusive 'as a whole Parish' by featuring events in individual churches that are open to all churches within our Parish.

8. Date and subject of next meeting: Wednesday 17^h March at 7.30pm at Douai Abbey: further discussion of the implementation of Living our Faith and election of officers of the PPC.

Future meeting dates: Wednesday 21.04.10: Wednesday 12.05.10
Wednesday 09.06.10: Wednesday 14.07.10

9. The meeting closed with prayer.

Chair.....

Secretary.....

Date.....