**Notes of St Joseph & the English Martyrs Parish Pastoral Council**

**Tuesday, 21st February 2017 @ 7.30pm at No 3**

Present: Fr Peter, Fr Fortunato, Mike Bowes, Mike Carroll, Martin Curran, Alison Jones, Vincent Micallef, Bertie Napier, Marie Rhodes

1. **Minutes of Meeting on 28th November 2016**These were agreed.
2. **Feedback of Bishop’s visitation**Fr Peter noted Bishop Paul McAleenan felt it was a friendly parish and was much appreciative of all that was going on within the Parish and for the input from both priests. During his visit (18/19th February) he had heard confessions, attended all masses and post-Mass coffees on Sunday morning as well as the Mass for the Anointing of the Sick with many happy to be able to return to be present in church. Bishop Paul visited Most Holy Redeemer and Holy Cross the following week and was impressed and very happy with all that was happening in these two Churches.
3. **Parish Finance Matters**   
   Mike Carroll and Martin Curran were welcomed and provided a brief summary of Parish finances. It was noted income from the offertory and social activities had fallen in the previous year. Offertory income has fallen to pre-2013 levels. Reserves had been depleted in order to fund planned upgrades to the lighting and toilet facilities. GiF funds had also gone towards the accessible toilets.

In order to address the drop in income and dip in reserves a planned giving appeal is planned during March at St Joseph’s with the focus on stewardship. Discussion continued on the practical details of the campaign. The last campaign was held in November 2013.

St Joseph’s had passed both internal and external audits. Use of the OPAS management accounting system would be extended across all 3 sites with a single set of bank accounts and accounts in due course. Budgets have been drafted for MH and SBW with a consolidated budget to be produced in due course. MH has liability for 50% of the running costs of St Andrew’s and 40% of the maintenance costs.

Gratitude was recorded both collectively and individually to the members of the Finance Committee for the enormous amount of time and effort put in to facilitate the careful planning, use and auditing of funds.

1. **Parish Centre Matters**  
   Fr Peter advised that despite updated and improved information being available on the website usage had not particularly increased and was still not close to covering costs. At present the barrier to wider usage is conditions imposed on rentals which could be challenged if a regular commitment made it worthwhile but commercial rental would require a caretaker, impacting financial gain. Issues with the boiler, floods and leaks have resulted in additional costs and while £15k pa has been budgeted the cost has been nearer £20k out of income.
2. **Church Building - Update**   
   Fr Peter advised that the appeal for donations of £50 to fund the cleaning of a marble panel on the sacristy had worked well. The same strategy would be used in due course to fund side bays. In response to a query concerning the level of heating in the church Fr Peter advised that no change had taken place and the cost to move from oil to gas central heating was still prohibitive.

FrP

1. **Formation**  
   Discussion took place on provision in place and need. It was felt there was a need to offer an alternative for parents who had already undertaken baptism/FHC preparation to support their children and next stage continued support for those completing the comprehensive initial RCIA programme. This issue would be reflected on and looked at further.
2. **Outreach Youth Worker**Fr Peter was still keen to pursue additional youth/catechetical support but a recent initiative had stalled due to personnel changes and shift in focus. It was noted the Catenians were also considering ways to support youth workers.
3. **Children at Mass**There had been 7 direct written responses to the literature distributed whilst others had commented on the usefulness of the resources. It will be an ongoing issue to engage focus of parents and children and tolerance from all parishioners.
4. **Social matters**The new committee had various events planned and were considering a pilgrimage as an option at some future date. BN suggested it might be useful to consider a parish dinner with speaker to raise funds and provide a wider range of events. VM noted the Harmonaires concert had gone well and Fr Peter advised that they had respected the integrity of the space and would be welcome to return.
5. **Any Other Business**It was noted that at times it is difficult to see the lit flame visible in the sanctuary light. The angle/sight line or varying thickness/shade of the plastic holder could be responsible but assurances were given that it was checked regularly.   
   It would be necessary to have a PPC representative responsible for health and safety and this would be considered at a future meeting.

**Date of Next Meetings**: Tuesday, 2nd May 2017

Monday, 17th July 2017

Tuesday, 26th September 2017 all at 7.30pm at 3 Windhill