

MINUTES OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING Thursday 12th January, 2017 in Presbytery.

PRESENT Fr. Philip, Eileen Tomkins, Tom. O'Neill, Chris Hills, Mia Bernedo, Caroline Pung, Joseph Gargaro and Sheila Harding attended on behalf of the Kanyeke Project.

APOLOGIES Peter Brazier, Clea Harmer, Lawrence Fernee, Maria Harrington.

1. Meeting started @ 19.30.
2. Previous Meeting Minutes approved.
3. **Fr. Philip's Comments.**

The Mission Statement will be put to the Annual General Meeting of the Parish for approval and in the meantime it will be worked with on a temporary basis.

The major item for this Meeting should be consideration of Parish Charitable Giving and Appeals.

4. Matters Raised by Parishioners.

These were considered and deemed not within the remit of this Committee and therefore:

a) The matter of the front doors/lighting/decoration etc should be handled by the Premises Committee and considered in the light of a possible porch extension/other Church refurbishment/budget and funding constraints. As and when the funds are available the planning permission request will be resurrected.

a) Questions relating to the Hall should be addressed to and handled by the Hall Committee.

5. Sacramental Programmes.

These are all ongoing but are too reliant on Fr. Philip's input and taking a disproportionate amount of his available time. Fr. Philip is keen to balance his various commitments, including the equivalent of one day per week working for Missio, a commitment which has not been fulfilled satisfactorily in the last nine months. The Parish should establish lay teams with lead catechists and suitable training will be made available, but different structures may be required in future. Names of volunteers should be sought by Easter, particularly taking into account the long process to obtain safeguarding clearance.

6. Lent and Easter.

The Meeting expressed great appreciation of the way the Christmas celebration went, the positioning/layout of the Crib and decorating of the Church in general.

Fr. Philip advised that the Easter celebration and associated services this year will need planning and that these will be closer to the liturgies given by the Church than perhaps has been recent practice.

Possibilities for Lent groups were discussed. The Diocesan resources will not be published as books we need to buy, although some online resources will be available. The use of the café DVD series on the Saints was agreed to be considered.

The Lent lunches will continue on Wednesdays in association with Churches Together in Royston.

Stations of the Cross, to be led by lay parishioners, could be scheduled to take place after Mass.

7. Parish Charitable Giving and Appeals.

Fr. Philip tabled a chart listing the detail of that which has been customary in the Parish and which is categorised as follows:

Holy See	*	mandatory
Bishop's Conference	**	mandatory
Diocesan	***	mandatory
Others		voluntary

In descending level of importance.

It is important to get the balance right and it was agreed that the "non-mandated" should be deleted with the exception of:

CAFOD

SPUC (white flower)

Missionary Society

Kanyeke Project (annual appeal made by either Fr. Kabuka or Joan Yates in person and subject to 2 donations, currently amounting to £4,000, from Parish funds p.a.) and it was confirmed that this should be supported as at present.

We have not been able to contact the Palestinian Olive Oil producers.

Fr. Philip advised that he had no request for any other appeal to date and that Home Missions and Catholic Youth Service should be removed from the list. There should be a gap made available for a local project and that early September appeared a good time for any additional appeal.

Note: the North Herts District President of SVP will visit w.e. 5thFebruary with a view to re-establishing the presence of SVP in the Parish, which may impact on some activities in the future.

Other considerations regarding National and Local Affairs awareness raised a number of potential areas to be pursued/investigated included:

Catholic Voices

Homestart

Mayor's Homeless Project

And suggestions for action or provision of more information should be with Fr. Philip by the beginning of Lent.

A review should be undertaken annually.

8. Dates of Next Meetings.

Thursday 6th April @19.30

Wednesday 5th July @ 19.30

Subject to number attending both will be held in the Hall Meeting Room.

9. Any Other Business.

There being no other business Fr. Philip concluded the meet with a closing Prayer @ 21.20.