

Parish Pastoral Council – 14 April 2021

Action Minutes

Present:

Fr Francis Antwi-Darwah	Peter Godwin	Elizabeth Lizzio
	Mark James	Martha Moroney-Lewis
Deacon Paul O Connor	Maureen Kelly	Eammon Rafferty
Deacon Justin Cross	Christine Lambert	Emma Smith
Teresa Clarke	John Lambert	Jackie Tominey

Apologies

Katherine Ajibade	Craig Brown	
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	<p>Natalie Carolan introduces herself as an ex officio member of the PPC with key role in the Communications Team. Natalie will make a valuable difference to how we can deliver to the Parish. Natalie you are warmly welcomed.</p>
1	<p>Actions from Minutes of 16 March 21 except where otherwise covered under other items below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of the Communications Team had been agreed. • Divine Renovations, a reflective book described as helping a journey from a maintenance to a missionary parish, for shared reading by the PPC members is now available for collection from the Sacristy at masses this weekend.
2	<p>St Bart's Parish Mission</p> <p>At the last meeting, Pope Francis' key definition of Evangelisation had been shared. It was agreed, to help PPC members' understanding and to be able to talk about the mission of Evangelisation to others, for the key definition to be supported by a sub-definition which showed how we would deliver the mission i.e. through our 5 Priorities.</p> <p>4 draft suggestions had been prior shared to the meeting. It was agreed that the first should be taken forward as it clearly reflected the 5 Priorities, but needed further refining including shortening.</p> <p>Action: Taking account of comments at the meeting, the revised below wording is now being shared:</p> <p>“Evangelisation is our Parish Mission. It means proclaiming the good news of God's love throughout the world and is the role of all parishioners as we work towards being missionary disciples i.e. listening, following and sharing our faith. Our Parish aims to evangelise by working with the local community in five areas: building community, ecumenism, spirituality, social justice and youth.”</p>

	<p>Action: Members are requested to share by e mail exchange their thoughts on this by 25/4.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>3.1</p>	<p>Updates on Priorities</p> <p>Share feedback on progress so far on meetings with existing Groups (meetings during April)</p> <p>Priority group updates had been shared prior to the meeting by Building Community, Ecumenism, Spiritualism and Youth.</p> <p><u>Building Community</u></p> <p>A summary of a meeting with lead contacts for the linked Parish groups of CWL, SVP, Circle of Friends and Knights of Columba had been prior shared in addition to the group update.</p> <p>Maureen briefed on a few key entries and then invited questions.</p> <p>All of these Parish Groups had concern as to maintaining numbers and welcomed any support from the PPC.</p> <p>The Building Community group are first progressing compilation of a Welcome Pack for new parishioners. The PPC confirmed support of proposals for contents of the pack. These proposals were based on the work of Barbara Bliss and Deacon Paul a couple of years ago.</p> <p>When all draft entries received, Maureen would pass over to Natalie for skilled formatting. Initially all drafts would be requested in Arial 12 font.</p> <p>When pack draft contents are all gathered, we will finalise layout/format/ costs of printing including if this is a parish printed pack or a published order pack. Eamon suggested that the company providing our weekly newsletters would probably give a reasonable quote.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maureen to gather contents from clergy and parish lead contacts over the next three weeks. 2. Layout/format/ costs of printing , with the help of Natalie, finalised. 3. To have the completed pack available by August 21. <p><u>Ecumenism</u></p> <p>The PPC were given more details on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'Adopt a plant', 'Count on Nature and 'Climate Conversations' activities which would be given focus across the weekend of 28-30 May. Details would be given in the Parish Newsletter soon. 2. It was proposed that St Barts could include in the bidding prayers a prayer for other individual, named churches on the Cycle of Prayer list. This involves some 40 churches and is organised by Churches Together in St Albans. On 25 April St Barts will be prayed for by all the other churches. <p>Fr. Francis confirmed his approval</p> <p><u>Social Justice</u></p> <p>The PPC were updated that due to personal commitments of Kat, the leadership of this group was now moving across to Craig Brown.</p> <p>Mark mentioned that there had been a recent conversation with two members of St Albans and Stephen's parish (Maureen and Stan Grabecki) as to a possible 'Walk of Witness' or "Beating the Bounds "between churches in forthcoming months as the Good Friday walk was unable to proceed this year because of COVID-19 restriction. This is part of St Albans SustFest.</p>

It was thought this activity fitted well under Ecumenism activities or may take place as an activity separate to the PPC.

Action: Christine to mention at South Albans Churches meeting on Thurs 16/4. The decision at SSAC was not to undertake this as there were already enough things planned for SustFest for SSAC members to take this on. It was noted that St Alban and St Stephen are participating so St Barts/Mark could link up with them.

Spiritualism

Peter added that:

1. Zoom activities were likely to be included
2. He would feed into the annual calendar of activities of the PPC, activities for the group which should be finalised in near future.

Action: To notify of activities to be included in the PPC annual calendar

Youth

A summary of a young family mass meeting with lead contacts of Hazel Healey (Childrens' Liturgy), Chris Blandford (safeguarding), Marion White, Maureen and Ray Anderson and Mark James (all welcomers) had been prior shared in addition to the group update.

Lizzie briefed on the key points of the summary.

Deacon Paul brought attention to the need to take care to balance the central act of worship of the mass against the play activities side on these occasions. This point had been considered too at the meeting of the lead contacts. It was agreed that those organising the young people's mass would work closely with the Clergy to ensure the right balance was met.

It is recognised that monthly young family masses can reassure and encourage parents concerned in bringing young children to mass and perhaps moving away from regular mass attendance as a family. It is important that the message is to encourage attendance at parish weekly masses supported by the monthly young family mass.

Jackie raised that there were parents in the parish, now with children much older, who could feedback on how the opportunity of the young family mass had supported them as a family when their children were young.

Chris Blandford, Hazel Healey, Pam McElroy and Jackie had all had involvement in our previous young family masses.

Actions:

- 1. Clergy to confirm the date for the first young family mass.**
- 2. Lizzie 18/04 meeting with Brigid Dorling (experience of previous family masses organization)**

Further ideas from the Youth group meeting, were to use the garden at the front of the church as a prayer garden and "sorry" and "thank you" trees to be added for children and adults to pray and reflect at.

Action: Lizzie to speak with Fr Francis as to feasibility and to then explore further

3.2 Focus on 1-2 things for 2021 so a balanced calendar can be agreed jointly alongside any existing commitments.

Building Community

- Welcome Pack for new parishioners
- Summer cake event
- Buddy Arrangement under two categories being for new parishioners and parishioners who are housebound or for other reason unable to attend mass

	<p><u>Ecumenism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events of weekend of 28-30 May as part of the SUSTFEST-sustainable St Albans Festival • Churches Together in St Albans weekly cycle of prayer for each parish within this group • Issue of a parish Ecumenism leaflet to explain • Advent Groups <p><u>Social Justice</u> To be confirmed</p> <p><u>Spiritualism</u> To be confirmed</p> <p><u>Youth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Family Mass • Prayer Garden with Sorry and Thank You Trees (if permitted)
3.3	<p>Any Upcoming Priority Events agreed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SustFest 28-30 May led by the Ecumenical Group • Issue of the Welcome Pack for new parishioners targeted by August 21 • Cake bake event August 21 • Oct 2021 the Parish BBQ together with PPC priority group and parish group information stalls • Young Family Mass-date for clergy to confirm • Issue of Parish Ecumenism leaflet
4 4.1 4.2	<p>Progress on Communicating internally and externally</p> <p><u>Update on Communications</u></p> <p>A paper giving the draft purpose and priorities for the Communications Team had been shared prior to the meeting together with names of those now making up this team: Chris Blandford, Natalie Carolan, Paula Dilger, Peter Godwin, Christine Lambert, Lizzie Lizzio and Jo Walker and Paul O'Connor.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check support needed by Fr Francis with weekly Parish Newsletter (Jo Walker/Paul O'Connor) • Communicate St Bart's mission, what the PPC is doing and process & timeline • Update website and remove any old information (Peter with Chris B) • Facebook – social media (Natalie) • Extending communication channels in print and on line (Natalie/Christine) <p><u>Evangelisation.</u> Communicating our Mission/Priorities/Process and timeline to be taken forward by:</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One of the main channels for communicating our Mission will be the first edition of our new 4 page publication to be issued on 1 May. The working title is either "St Barts Together" or "BartholoNEWS". Its purpose is to share in print and on the website what is going on in the Parish, the PPC and to include a spiritual dimension to help develop our understanding with, reflections, photos, articles from parishioners and also detail on events. Action: A draft will be circulated in advance and print deadline is 25 April. <p>Chairman updated that the cheapest quote of £85 for 300 colour copies of our Parish publication had been given.</p>

4.3	<p>2. Action:1-2 May Fr Francis will speak at all masses on the Parish Mission Evangelisation.</p> <p>3. Other ways of sharing our Mission are also being considered such as posters and potentially a parish Zoom.</p> <p><u>Livestream Working Party Update</u></p> <p>Lizzie gave an update on a meeting with key parishioners where enquiries of other parishes operating a livestream facility and information from Deacon Liam had been shared prior to the meeting.</p> <p>A number of points were raised by members and the views on this topic have been balanced as to whether it is needed – now or in the future. However, it was agreed that we do need more detail on technical information and costs.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that we will continue to look into what is involved to have all the information needed to reach an informed decision, but that it has been decided that, for now, this initiative is not an immediate priority to be implemented. The focus now is to encourage our parishioners to return to mass attendance at St Barts.</p> <p>Eamon confirmed that WiFi being installed in the church. This is important for contactless payments, which is now becoming a Diocesan requirement, but would also be useful if we were to decide to implement livestream in the future.</p>
5	<p>Update on Maintenance</p> <p>John:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Repainting of Lady Chapel has been completed 2. Installation of new light in car park has been fitted 3. Fire sensors on Presbytery are just in 4. Fire notices submitted to Michelle for lamination and will soon be displayed in the church 5. Altar servers cassocks (cottas and albs) have been washed and sprayed with fire retardant 6. John has now spoken to several key people about first escape routes. 7. Lawnmowing is underway. Working is continuing with weeding 8. The team will be working on small maintenance issues over the next weeks <p>There is concern as to the trees at the front of the church. Fr Francis has recently sought advice and will be speaking with Eamon as to the best way forward for management of the trees.</p>
6	<p>Any Other business</p> <p>The Divine Revelations book is now available in the sacristy. This is particularly relevant as it focuses on the background to and practical ways to support us all to become “missionary disciples.”</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members to collect from the Sacristy after masses this weekend • To read the first two chapters before next PPC Meeting
7	<p>Date of Next Meeting Monday 17 May 2021</p>

Remaining 2021 PPC Meeting Dates: Monday 17/5; Tuesday 15/6; Weds 14/7;

Tues 14/9; Mon 11/10, Tuesday 16/11, Weds 15/12.