

St. Mary's Leyland Pastoral Council
Minutes of the Meeting 1 July 2009

PRESENT; Fr. Jonathan, Bishop Ambrose, Fr. Stephen, Fr. Paul, Edward Almond, Liz McGrath, Tim Sullivan, Sue Mills, Tony Hart, Gaye Beirne, Ann Ward, Walter Courtney, Lesley Raven, Alex Anthony.

WELCOME/APOLOGIES; Sr. Veronica, Judy Gammans, Simon Brown, Peter Barron

PRAYERS; Tony Hart

CHAIRPERSON; Alex Anthony

MINUTES; Alex Anthony stood in for the previous Chair, Peter Barron.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS RISING;

First Aid- looking for a date in September. *Action Lesley*

Safeguarding; Steve McBride met with Fr. Jonathan to discuss the Group Link People.

The safe guarding meeting was on at the same time as the PPC meeting with Simon Brown as the PPC rep.

Marriage and family life held a meeting.

Singo family; situation ongoing.

Minutes were accepted

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT; report provided and discussed.

The Singo family much appreciate the ongoing contact and support. Mel had rung that night. If the family had somewhere to go then they could be released. They have an aunt or close friend at Lostock Hall. Friday is bail application. There is something new happening everyday.

Catenian quiz the president won!

No meeting in August so; Coming up- the Wizard of Oz this week. Primary school's Summer Fairs. Walter mentioned that it might be considered that the Priory Club facilities could be improved so that further productions could be staged in the main room. For the youth the club this facility is not always available. The high school is not either or it can be problematic; alarms, key holder etc.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEEPENING FAITH

EVANGALISATION REPORT; copies circulated prior to the meeting. This was discussed briefly at the last meeting.

- Suggestion that we continue with the traditional things but bring in other ideas about bringing people back to the church.

- KIT wasn't very successful. It was hard to know how to approach this by not pressurising. Fr A; he had no feedback and only a small number of people are going out. We need to persevere Idea would be to follow-up baptisms, communions and confirmations. It is knowing how to involve without putting the pressure on people.
- Greater use of the parish centre for social events.
- An annual event for baptismal families.
- Joint Holy Communion Mass
- 25/50 came back to the joint communion celebration.
- The children were not welcomed on the altar when they had made the effort to come.
- We should gear the celebration towards the young people with activities geared to 8 yr olds.
- Give out personal rather than general invitation for joint celebration. Would make them feel part of the family.
- We could organise something like Easter Sunday? (10am Mass and party after)

At this point Eileen McNamara head of St Mary' joined the meeting.

Singo family update; Mel staying in the detention centre, Ethel and the girls to stay with Aunt in Lostock Hall. Joint judicial review on 15 August.

Comments from EMcN;

The experience of families involved in the parish is replicated in the schools. Mass in school is better attended by parishioners than parents of the school children. The same families involved in Mass are involved in governors and other groups.

At the joint mass we lost the opportunity to make the children more involved in the mass.

- ❖ Perhaps they could be introduced to the little church? St Mary's did send out to letters re the joint mass and 50% attended.
- ❖ We need to make the children and their families feel special.
- ❖ Church can be far removed from the family experience; children don't get to know the priests like in the past.
- ❖ Priests need to speak and engage with the children.

Michael Barrett - Head of St. Anne's school joined the meeting

The church ought to come to where the families are. Good response from the HC programme. Most completed the programme and parents are good for the most part. Challenges arise from the family background: One parent families, one parent non-catholic where they are a bit in the dark about Catholicism.

- ❖ A buddy system for a child from an older child is helpful

- ❖ The first Holy Communion programme has been reviewed each year, and adapted.

More ideas:

- Input from parents from the beginning as to where they come from. Ask them what it is like to be a parent of 8 year olds in Leyland and use their replies in the programme.
- Adapt the programme to meet the needs of different levels of faith.

The Youth group with Steve McBride is a superb model for engaging children that will eventually lead into confirmation programme.

Fr J asked whether or not parents/children feel that they belong to the catholic community?

Generally families feel comfortable to go to assemblies in school perhaps parents feel uncomfortable in church. So for instance Baptism at school was very acceptable.

School can be where they meet Jesus and experience the church.

Pressure in schools is great to deliver national curriculum and perform well. The ideal would be to link school and church more. We need to explore more.

Some families (a few) are strongly committed to Church. Some don't associate Church as a place where they find their own lives engage. They consider themselves Catholic but they may be missing out on the richness of Church.

The children respond well to the Religious experience they have in School: it is their parents who are not committed and so the Children miss out on the excellent things that are happening in the parish.

Mr Barrett stressed the positive that already exists in the Sacramental Programme after many years of working at it. Our Parish should be proud and well-pleased with what we do; in his view it is excellent, and furthermore he sees many parishes not doing anything very much.

Mrs McNamara asked that on behalf of the 2 schools that they would like to thank the catechists, Lesley and the church and all who contributed to the programme. PPC want to help in any way. All are connected to our catholic schools for a reason. Children are proud of what they are doing. The communicants have a class mass in St. Anne's following first HC and assemblies.

Conclusions from the visit of the Head-Teachers

Exclusion in any form often harms so badly that people reject Church often for good: our policy needs:

- always to be welcoming even if there is delay sometimes.

- Plan things especially for children.
- Try to build up practical links with families.
- Think how to link schools and parish more
- When we have children in church make mass theirs in some way, so they feel special.
- Have a review with the catechists and the Heads of the school with some wine and cheese etc. about the programme last year and plan for next year.
- Feedback from parents from early on in the Holy Communion programme would be helpful.

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY WORD:

This links School and Parish. It uses the Sunday's readings and suggests Wednesdays to mediate and reflect on the word of God in an organised way in families. We plan to begin this in September. The schools are acquiring the version for children.

HOME IS THE HOLY PLACE:

The initial meeting was good for the few that attended, 7 people 2 from other parishes. Tim and Kath Sullivan are our Family Life reps. Possibly plan a Sunday/Saturday afternoon for 1.5 hours to share on family life, using the resources provided, possibly in September.

ELECTIONS:

All re-elected ie Gaye Beirne, Anne Ward, Alex Anthony, Edward Almond, Sue Mills, and Walter Courtney. We recommend putting something in the bulletin. Many thanks to all for standing again

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Building and Finance Committee has been re-constituted prompted by Ampleforth. Members will have specific jobs:

Minutes Secretary Judy Gammans	Buildings including Alverna, Cemetery Barry Cox, Jim Blackledge, Fr. Jonathan	Health and Safety issues (Barry Cox and Lesley)
Accounts: Brian Salisbury, Siobhan Cuerden, Lesley and Fr. Jonathan	Payroll: Lesley and Brian	Economies for Gas, Water Electricity - ie Green approach Fr. Ambrose and Lesley
Parish Centre: George Davis, Fr. Jonathan Lesley, Barry, looking at Aesthetics, Availability, Daily running. Brian to keep an eye on accounts		

Fr. Jonathan briefly presented accounts for the 9 months of this year *September 2008 - May 09*.

Income £104K Expenditure £105.5K Running expenses at a deficit- £1.5. One cause is that employment costs have gone up.

The offertory collection surprisingly has improved. There are no comparative expenditure figures with last year.

Legacy £6000 means we are still in the blue and have reserves [with a small amount of interest]. We need to be a bit careful with how we spend.

Building and finance committee will meet 4 times a year (one being the AGM), and always have before it the latest financial position. Also there will be a proper budget, and reports if necessary from each group above.

Friday 20 November: next AGM when there will be a Mass for groups and Jacob's join with AGM and finance discussions afterwards.

Any Other Business

Paul Falcone has asked that we form an Action Committee for welcoming the Singo family as there is some concern that they may be 'swamped' by people on their return. There will be challenges ahead for all the family still, eg the Singo's cannot support themselves.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING; Wed 9 September

CHAIR; Edward Almond

PRAYERS; Gaye Beirne

Meeting closed 9.19pm