

## St Mary's Leyland

### Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Wednesday 6 June 2018

**PRAYER:** Sr Veronica

**WELCOME:** Edward Almond [Chair]

**PRESENT:** Fr Jonathan, Edward Almond, Christine Lemmon, Sue Mills, Lesley Raven, Tim Sullivan, Alex Anthony, Sr Veronica, Jean Smith, Gaye Beirne.

**APOLOGIES:** Fr Paul, Jenny Hollinshead, Celia Neill, Andrea Thornhill

#### **Item 3 & 4 Acceptance of Minutes of the Last Meeting and matters arising.**

Minutes accepted and signed by Tim Sullivan as a true record.

#### **Matters arising;**

Since the 10am mass was introduced the singing groups are heading in the right direction after some teething problems.

Baptisms will be starting at 12.00pm as from 12 July.

#### **Item 5; Parish Councillors' Report**

/ Holy Communion Days for St Mary's and St Anne's

/ Courses in Food safety and First Aid

/ Meeting with the architect to discuss upcoming work in church

/ Funerals

/ 2 weddings

/ Mindfulness course

/ Interviews for the Assistant Head teacher post

/ High school training for Eucharistic Ministers

/ Lourdes talk for the forthcoming Pilgrimage

/ Churches together in Leyland held the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in church

/ KSC dinner

/ Mass for the Bereaved

/ Baptismal programme

/ Pastoral Associate project information talk

#### **Item 6. The impact of work on the church for the parish from Monday 18 June for 4-6 weeks.**

There will be no access to the main church. Funerals will take place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

There is a wedding at the beginning of August which will be the deadline for the completion of work.

BSC will only be open for Saturday 6pm masses, with overflow chairs if needed, and Baptisms.

10am mass will be in the Parish Centre. This must be finished and cleared by 11.30am to allow for any Baptism family celebrations.

12.15pm daily mass will be in the Priory House library.

Practicalities for the Parish Centre;

- Red chairs from the church stored in the side room and/or the van. Parishioners to be asked to help set up.
- Little church can use the bar area.
- Altar servers to set up the altar.
- People to be counted for number of communion hosts and priest to use the house ciborium.
- Priest to ask for Eucharistic ministers – 2 for hosts, 4 for chalices for both masses.
- Hymn books and mass books – split between church and the parish centre. People to share in each venue.
- Bring newspapers and Wednesday word to Parish Centre.
- Teas and coffee to be provided by hospitality.
- Organ to be covered.

## **Item 7 & 8**

### **Role of the PPC in the light of changed circumstances.**

#### **The relationship of the PPC with the Called Beyond Initiative.**

#### **Fr Jonathan reaching retiring age.**

Fr Jonathan explained that for men in religious orders the decision regarding retirement is taken by the superior of the religious order. Being 75 Fr Jonathan had to write a letter saying that he was now at retiring age. It is up to the superiors to ask a man to retire or to let him remain in post after the age of 75.

For a man in Religious Life involved in a parish there are two superiors; the Religious superior of his order and the Archbishop.

In reply our Archbishop Malcolm was happy that Fr Jonathan remained but the decision depends on the Superior for any man in a religious order who is involved in a parish.

The superior has said that Fr Jonathan can stay in Leyland. When Fr Jonathan and the parishioners think it will be best for him to leave then the Parish will be handed over to the Archdiocese. This decision to hand over the Parish (that since its foundation has always been under the English Benedictine Congregation, EBC, or Ampleforth) has to be made by a vote of the Ampleforth chapter as the constitutions of the EBC state. Who knows what will happen in practice?

#### **Discussion on the role of the Parish Pastoral Council**

Fr Jonathan asked "Is the statement in italics on the agenda still appropriate?"

*"the role [of the PPC] is to advise and support the Parish Priest in the coordination and direction of pastoral and evangelising activities in support of the Mission of the Parish"*

Decisions that are made also includes the PPC and not just the Parish Priest eg reducing masses.

There are two aspects to consider;

*Maintaining what there is* [PPC]                      *Being missionary* [Called Beyond Team]

But those two cannot be completely separated: maintenance is also mission and mission is also maintenance. (*Hence the addition of the words "and evangelising" above*).

Question – what is the CB Team's role and how does it relate to the PPC?

Responses/Questions/ideas –

Is there a way of integrating both or have the CB team as a sub-group of the PPC? Similar to the Finance and Building Committee? Recommendations in this situation go to the PPC to accept.

There are PPC members already on the CB team.

At PPC elections CB team members could put themselves forward?

Bear in mind that the Called Beyond Experience of October 2017 to try to instil a culture of vocation in all parishioners was a turning point in the life of the Parish.

Even without much effort new things have happened.

- Mindfulness came from the Called Beyond week,
- as has extra support at Little Church, Faith in Action,
- special features of Christmas and Easter celebrations to help families.

More activities will be happening.

#### **To consider;**

- a. Called Beyond we understood meant Called Within. On the 11 July at La Corte on the Feast of St Benedict we will gather with those who wish and are free about how we can live the Benedictine life in the parish in a more structured way. There will be a talk by a Fr Andrew Alman from St Clare's after a short service at St Ambrose's church
- b. An afternoon for the PPC and CB team at Brindle.
- c. A retreat at Ampleforth to learn more about Benedictine life.
- d. Fr Jonathan's experience on spirit of communion enhanced by an outside charism. This is confirmed by regular meetings of men in religious in our area. We can also learn from the laity, diocesan priests. There may be some laity who are attracted by religious life and the

charism of a specific Religious Order. Different laity would belong to different Religious Orders, ones they know and love. Sharing about how laity relate and live out the Gospel under the lens of their particular charism is very helpful for people to grow in the spiritual life. This may deepen peoples' faith and make a contribution to the church.

- e. Explore the parish profile and the relationship between the PPC and the CB team at a retreat.

### **The Pastoral Associate Project; some details and moving forward**

Two members of the PPC met with Fr Philip Inch and others regarding the how the Archdiocese views our parish and its role.

Later other members of the parish (and 2 PPC members) attended the presentation about the Archdiocesan Pastoral Associate Project. This was of interest to various of us in St Mary's Leyland because of the reduction of the monk-priests in Leyland with Fr Stephen being away and Fr Paul leaving.

We had a document about the person specification before us. 5-8 people will be trained, being paid £25000 for 3 years. The post is bid for by a parish or a group of parishes in a deanery or the entire deanery.

The bid deadline is 29 July. The vision that this person to be employed is as a result of there being fewer parishioners and priests in general in the Archdiocese and that he/she may encourage and train parishioners for various ministries within their own parish. This is in preparation for the Synod 2020.

Points to think about would be financing this venture, having a conversation with the parish, having meetings with other parishes.

4 deanery priests met to discuss this issue as well. They all felt a Pastoral associate would not work in our deanery. However they thought it might be something that St Mary's could take on if Lesley were liberated of some of the administrative work that she has to do. This is something we are exploring to see how that can be done. There are some good ideas.

### **AOB**

Elections to the PPC; End of term of office for Celia Neill, Tim Sullivan, Christine Lemmon, Jean Smith. Peter Worden and Andrea Thornhill to be placed on the mailing list. There will be a deadline for people to apply by the first Sunday of July

At baptismal presentations parents are to be invited to present baby themselves at the altar.

A suggestion came that there should not be an extra mass at the Sunday of Holy communions so all parishioners have the opportunity of welcoming the young people and their families.

The week before the priest could ask the congregation for as many as possible attend the following Sunday in order to support the families and be a part of the celebrations.

A prayer card or small gift could be presented to each child by a parishioner.

**Next meeting;** Wednesday 25 July 2018 at 7.30pm

Chair: Alex Anthony

Prayer: Gaye Beirne

Meeting closed at 9.15pm