

**St Mary's Leyland
Parish Council
Wednesday 6th May 2015**

PRESENT: Fr Jonathan, Lesley Raven, Jeremy Watson, Sue Mills, Christine Lemmon, Liz McGrath, Gaye Beirne, Pauline Strachan, Celia Neill, Edward Almond, Alex Anthony, Fr Stephen, Peter Barron, Tim Sullivan (Chair)

APOLOGIES: Sister Veronica, Ann Ward, Fr Paul

PRAYER: Led by Celia Neill

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: All agreed

PARISH EVENTS:

Sacramental Programme

St Georges Day Parade

Easter Masses

Exposition For The Lapsed

Walk of Witness – Good Friday

Golden Jubilee Beatles Night Event

£10,000 raised and sent to Guinea Bissau

Bingo & Race Night – High School Fundraiser

Chapter at Ampleforth

Brother Benedict Professed

Nepal Collection

Divine Mercy

Marriage Preparation Course

104th Birthday of Joe Burgess our Eldest Parishioner

VIEW OF THE JUBILEE YEAR: Fr Jonathan confirmed that the “50” symbol on the front of the church bulletin would be staying after the Golden Jubilee year was

completed. All thought that the Jubilee year had been a success with a variety of events which catered for all age groups. A major achievement was the raising of £10,000 for the Guinea Bissau project, appropriate and lovely to do something for a community that has no church, in our own Jubilee year. Fr Jonathan and the council passed on their thanks to Edward for all his efforts in taking on the preparations for the Jubilee year events. It was discussed that we should seek some positive press out of the Jubilee year with particular reference to the success of the Guinea Bissau Project. Edward was asked if he could compile an article and pictures to forward on to the Leyland Guardian hopefully for publication.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE: Preparation is taking place with the bishops for the synod with the “family”. Fr Jonathan has sent off replies from 3 meetings. Inviting internet response the bishop asked “What are your joys and hopes of marriage & family life today?” Fr Jonathan commented that although some families may be dysfunctional it should not mean that family life is finished and there is hope for the future. “What are your struggles and fears?” – A response was that families live far more apart these days with the support network not being available. In the past families would live in the same street/area and be there for each other. It is important to understand marriage as a vocation. Children play themselves off against mum and dad and each other; this causes difficulties for their parents. Fr Jonathan said that there had been a lot of negative press about a lack of contribution this second time for consultation. However what has been sent off may be helpful for the Synod on family life even if what has been sent is “thin”.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: It is the time of year to nominate new Pastoral councillors. There are 6 members whose time it is to retire and stand again to be re-elected if that is their wish. These are Sue Mills, Gaye Beirne, Liz McGrath, Alex Anthony, Ann Ward and Edward Almond. The Parish Pastoral Council Elections will be displayed in the bulletin with an option for Parishioners to nominate themselves (with a sponsor) using the relevant form available from Lesley who will co-ordinate a timetable and put on the bulletin.

PARISH INITIATIVE: Parishioners were asked to give their views about the “Way of Life” initiative. 17 people responded which was regarded as reasonable feedback. Parishioners are not used to commenting on parish matters in this way but the responses are beneficial and very important to the Parish. Many more people who have not responded may have been affected in a positive way by the initiative. It was suggested that the responses could be displayed in the Narthex, handed out to parishioners, printed in the bulletin or possibly put up on the screen prior to 9.30am mass. A thank you for the responses could also be put in the bulletin. There was an idea that Parish groups might present themselves at all masses; this should be followed up. A short overview as to what the group does and its contribution to the Parish may result in more members being recruited. Fr Jonathan commented that the Way of Life initiative should be seen as an extremism of love and believing, in contrast to an extremism of

indiscriminate hate for others that we witness of fundamentalist religious people in various parts of the world. Nobody should be excluded or not good enough to engage in this extremism of loving and believing. It is something that could grow through the parish. We need a new spirit inside us and a mind set about the importance of ordinary events in everyday life. Try to support and be witness to what God is doing in all our lives.

A.O.B.

1. Feasibility of Suggested Visit to Guinea Bissau Nov 2015

Following a recent suggestion on the bulletin regarding the above, Pauline has investigated travel, safety and security regarding a possible visit to Guinea Bissau and found that:

- A) Flights alone were approx 1,200/1,300 return per person and that 1,500 would be the minimum needed per person for approx 1 week or so.
 - B) Gov. UK Travel Advice included information that there are currently no suspected cases of Ebola and a 'low threat' of terrorism.
 - C) There is no British Embassy in Guinea Bissau however assistance to British Nationals is available but limited. Discussion followed that any interested parishioners may not be able to independently fund the visit but that there may be subsidies/grants from outside organisations and possibly the diocese. This may help to fund the visit, particularly for young, interested parishioners. Fr Stephen emphasised the future investment for young people, were they to visit, to then follow up the experience to make it more meaningful in the long term.
- The council agreed that safety was paramount but that it seemed a good idea in principle to further pursue the idea of a parish group visiting Guinea Bissau as invited and that the benefits would be significant to warrant further discussion. Suggested that this item appeared again on the next PPC agenda when it could be discussed further,

2. De-cluttering the Narthex and Ambulatory

Sue pointed out that there are many notice boards and areas that had leaflets, posters etc that may be out of date, generally neglected and in need of a general tidy up.

Suggested Sue and Christine (volunteered) to review the situation and act accordingly to address the issue.

3. Feasibility of replacing/updating the Mass Book

Christine asked about this and Fr Jonathan said he would ask when the readings were going to change as these were on a three year cycle and would impact on the sensible timing of the above.

4. Disclosure and Barring Check

Peter asked about the legal situation as to members of the PPC needing to have updated DBC regarding Safeguarding. It was agreed two parishioners responsible for safeguarding would be asked to check this.

5. Poor attendance at recent dedicated mass for new Communicants

Tim raised that comments had been made regarding the low number of children and their families, about to make their First Holy Communion who had attended the recent Sunday service dedicated to them. This was despite being asked and was disappointing.

6. Reminder to make time for others

Christine reminded all to be mindful to make time for others despite our busy lives.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 1st July 7.30pm

CHAIR: Peter Barron

PRAYER: Gaye Beirne