

Minutes of the meeting of the Scarborough Parishes Pastoral Council held on 2nd February 2017.

Present: Fr Gubbins (Fr EG)(Chair), Mary Blurton (MB), Olympio d'Souza (OdS), Paul Inasu (PI), Cleopatra Robles (CR), Fr Schembri (Fr AS), Anne Smith (AS), Liz White (LW)

1. **Opening Prayer** – Fr Gubbins led the opening prayer and welcomed Members to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence** – received from Catherine Griffin, Hugh Davey and Kevin O'Connor. Members were informed that Sarah Broadbent had stepped down from the Pastoral Council.
3. **Minutes from the meeting held on 26 June 2016 and matters arising.** The Minutes were accepted as a correct record. There were no matters arising.
4. **Financial statement** – the financial statement was circulated and read by Members. LW advised that at 31 December 2016 the sum of £80,181 was held in the bank account and £34 in cash. There had been a small reduction in loose plate offertory income. There was a deficit of £13,230 at the Year End but the bank balance is very healthy so this was not a cause for immediate concern. OdS suggested using a side altar for evening Masses to reduce heating costs this was discussed but Fr EG advised that the heaters could not be used in isolation; the whole church would still be heated. It was agreed that numbers attending evening Masses would be checked. PI suggested asking for donations when one-off purchases were to be made. LW advised that just £190 had been raised so far towards the restoration of the sanctuary. A breakdown of the Year End accounts will be circulated with the newsletter. LW informed Members that the Gift Aid was now being claimed half yearly instead of annually and Members expressed their appreciation for the work done by Jennie Eyre on Gift Aid and Fr EG thanked LW for her hard and dedicated work in producing the accounts in such a user-friendly way.
5. **Updates from sub-groups:**
 - Youth** – David Edwards and Graham Wilkinson still lead the Youth Club which meets at St Augustine's School on Friday evenings during term time. We would not have a youth worker for the foreseeable future.
 - Care Group** – Monica Driver is still involved with this group and the Healing Masses.
 - Adult Formation/Evangelization** – A report prepared by Michael Kearns was circulated before the meeting. The report set out activities which had been carried out and those proposed for 2017. Fr AS referred to the possibility of a mini-mission in the Barrowcliff area which would provide information about the Catholic Church and other denominations. This was expected to start during Lent. PI suggested distributing information ahead of the mission including details of church services. Fr AS advised that several evangelical activities were already held at St Edward's but if there was interest within the other churches the group could move meetings to St Peter's or St Joseph's.
 - Catechesis**
 - Baptism:** LW advised that a good number of families were involved in Baptism preparation and appreciated the introduction by Fr EG of the two Rites of Welcome and Anointing, which had been held in St Peter's.
 - First Holy Communion:** MB gave an update on the Holy Communion course which was being provided on Friday afternoons for the children in St Peter's School who were led in groups of six with the involvement of the class teacher, Head teacher and catechists. The resource being used is "Jesus Come to Me". There are 30 children in the group and three who do not attend St Peter's School. Lesley Atkinson was leading the course at St Peter's Parish Centre on Thursday evenings. Due to the large intake, First Holy Communion would be held in two sessions. The first would be held on **11 June at St Joseph's at 10am**, followed by another session on **18 June at St Peter's at 11.30am**. It was then proposed to hold a Mass of Thanksgiving afterward to which all the candidates would be invited. PI asked how parents

were involved and was informed that parents attend a talk each month with Fr EG, they attend Mass throughout the course and the children take their workbooks home to talk to their parents which all helps to keep them involved. The children are also required to sign the register each Sunday at the Mass they attend.

Confirmation: There was a small group of candidates last year and none this year but Confirmation would be celebrated next year.

RCIA: Fr AS advised that two adult converts were in preparation and he had received two more enquiries.

Pro Life Group: MB commented that there had been an active group until the death of Brian O'Flynn and various fund raising events had been held. LW continued to insert items in the newsletter and MB continues to receive ProLife Times which she brought to church for distribution. Members of the Craft Groups were thanked for the white flower decorations which had received a mixed response. Members accepted that abortion was a sensitive issue but supported the Pope's teaching which did not condone abortion but upheld the sacredness of life and called for compassion and support for those affected by abortion. Members were reminded that this included dignity for the elderly and end of life care. MB advised that SPUC had taken on whole life policies which also included protection for disabled children in the womb.

6. **Review of Advent and Christmas** – Members were informed that the Christmas services had been well attended with around 1,200, including the Polish community, attending over the eight services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Favourable comments were made about the music at St Joseph's and Members appreciated the work done by Martin Richardson. The choice of times for services was welcomed.
7. **Preparations for Lent and Easter** – Fr AS provided a calendar of proposed events for Lent and Easter which was read by Members. Fr AS would deliver a Lenten talk followed by a lunch each Wednesday; the evangelization group would deliver ecumenical sessions based on Henri Nouwen's 'Return of the Prodigal Son' on Thursday afternoons in St Edward's Hall; and Fridays would be days for devotion when the Stations of the Cross would be led by various groups as in previous years. The calendar would be finalized and made available for parishioners at each church. Any group planning an event during Lent would need to let Fr AS or Fr EG know in good time. There was some discussion on the Corpus Christi procession which had not been particularly well attended in previous years. It was agreed that the First Holy Communion families should be invited and encouraged to attend. LW mentioned a spiritual icon painting course which she had discussed with Fr AS. This would start after Easter and culminate in the blessing of the icons at Pentecost. There was limited space so numbers would also be limited.
8. **Update on Proposed Hall at St Joseph's** – copies of correspondence received from St Joseph's Craft Group and Parent and Toddler Group were circulated prior to the meeting. The letters confirmed that both groups were well attended and that the space available to them in the bungalow is becoming or has become inadequate. The groups asked whether progress could be made with the proposed works to provide a hall at St Joseph's. Fr EG commented that he had not been contacted to discuss the situation or proposals and he felt it was too big a project for the Pastoral Council. A brief background to this item was given and it was accepted that the situation had changed since the project was proposed two years ago, as Fr AS was now living in the bungalow. Fr EG suggested that there needed to be enthusiasm for the project and evidence that it would be supported and used. PI suggested that a working party could be set up to assist. OdS asked about the old school premises on Aurborough Street and was informed that this would revert to the parish in 2022 but some units are not presently occupied. PI asked about the layout and was informed that they were mainly small rooms which would not provide the space required. OdS suggested that a long term view was required to establish the best use of our available buildings. Fr AS

commented that the situation at St Joseph's had changed and could change again. It was agreed that this was a complex issue which needed careful consideration and that suggestions would be welcome. A meeting needs to be arranged with St Joseph's parishioners.

9. **Planned repair works/renovation of St Peter's Church** – the Specific Defect Report prepared by Billingham George and Partners was circulated with the Agenda. Fr EG explained that a problem had arisen with a window at St Peter's. Joe Conway had removed the ironwork which had become loose and David Munslow had liaised with the Consulting Engineers. The window had been made safe but considerable works will be required to address the problem. Members asked about progress with the restoration of the altar and were informed that there were several ongoing projects and it would be necessary to prioritize the works needed.
10. **Divine Office at St Peter's** – Fr EG confirmed that in the weekly cycle of events, Prayer of the Church, the Divine Office, was not currently available at St Peter's. Some change would be necessary to the devotions prayed at St Peter's, as the Rosary is currently said before some weekday Masses but it was felt that this would be a worthwhile addition which is highly recommended by the Church. LW was keen to see this introduced and it was agreed that Lent would be a good time to introduce this. MB asked whether books were required and who would lead the prayer. Fr EG expected that the priests would lead initially but lay people would take over in time.
11. **Membership of the Pastoral Council** – AS advised that there should be between 11 and 15 Members who would serve a term of three years. Several Members had now served one or two terms on the Pastoral Council and, in accordance with the Constitution, new Members were needed. An item should be placed on the bulletin asking for nominations. In the event of more nominations than vacancies, elections could be held but in the first instance volunteers or nominations were required. The Council should be made up of a mix of ages, genders and representatives were needed for each of the three parishes.
12. **Proposed Parish Social** – Fr EG asked whether Members felt this would be supported and would welcome suggestions for social and fundraising events. The Spring Fayre had been a good fundraiser with food provided by the Indian community and entertainment. MB advised that this was usually held in early May and that St Mary's Hall would need to be booked. Agreed that MB would discuss with Fr EG.
13. **Any other business** – There had been an accumulation of items in some of the rooms in St Peter's Parish Centre which needed sorting and clearing so that the rooms were available as overflow for small meetings. Fr EG advised that some rooms had now been cleared. Fr EG confirmed that the Daughters of Mary and Joseph, who had spent many years teaching at The Convent on Queen Street and St Peter's Primary School, were leaving the diocese in March and that a Mass of Thanksgiving would be held at 11.30 on Sunday 26 March at St Peter's. Sister Dymphna was in poor health and Sister Anne was in hospital but it was hoped that Sister Dymphna would be well enough to attend the Mass and Jenny Eyre was contacting past Convent girls and involved in fundraising and organizing an exhibition of photographs etc to mark the occasion.
14. **Date and time of next meeting** – Tuesday 6 June at 7pm in St Peter's Parish Centre.