



# St Catharine's Pastoral Council

Minutes of meeting Tuesday 11 October 2011.

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Present:	Fr Joseph O'Brien	Deacon David Brinn
Clare Asquith	Sonia Chucoski	Geoff Day
Clare Delaney	Sam Dixon	Anna Barber
Paul Godwin	Debbie Godwin	June Hickey
Darren Kirton	Elizabeth Neame	Martin King (clerk)
Absent:	Edmund Costelloe	

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## 1 APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTIONS

- a) Apologies received and accepted from Edmund Costelloe.
- b) Clare Asquith kindly agreed to chair the meeting.
- c) The minutes of the meeting of 13 September were agreed.
- d) It was agreed that in future the minutes of the council meetings would be published and available in the church porch and on the parish website.

## 2 PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

Clare Asquith reminded everyone that at the first meeting, three areas identified in "Called to be a People of Hope had been agreed as parish priorities for the next twelve months namely:

- i) A people of Welcome and Communications.
- ii) Prayer.
- iii) Acting Justly.

Now it was time to get down to discussing the practicalities of how the parish could do things differently and for the better in these areas.

## 3 A people of Welcome and Communications

On the question of communications and in particular the parish website, it was thought that it could perhaps be more interesting and easier to access some of the information. David Brinn explained that the design and layout of the website had been deliberately kept simple and plain, as a means of quickly establishing a way of getting information out. It was intended to be a short term measure, giving time for a better example to follow. However, in the event no one had found the time to take this forward. Sonia Chucoski had some ideas on how the website might be improved and it was agreed that she would get together with Martin King to see how these might form the basis of a new design.

Though some parishioners are very generous and considerate, we may not be doing enough for visiting clergy.

Many people do not know of the existence of the various groups and organizations in the parish or if they do they may not know what they do or why. To raise their profile, the different action groups in the parish could do a monthly 'multimedia' promotion, combining a splash on the website and newsletter with a display in the church porch, input during Mass (offertory, bidding prayers, readings), welcome afterwards and handouts encouraging new volunteers.

Another idea put forward was for photos of the leaders of our groups, together with their contact details to be displayed in the porch.

We need to be aware of visitors from, for instance, Center Parcs. Should not hang back, but go up to strangers after Mass.

An important part of welcoming is of course in greeting and handing out books as people arrive for Mass on Sunday's. At present there are only two people who do this on a regular basis. There needs to be somebody present to greet from 9.00am and 5.00 pm; which is not always the case at present, so we may need more volunteers on a rota. Before this is taken any further David Brinn will speak to the two current regulars to get their views.

We are quite a diverse parish with members from several different ethnic groups. The meeting was asked to consider do we do enough to welcome and integrate them into our community? What more could we do? Some suggestions were: having available written items in their own language. Providing lists of translators.

#### **4 Prayer.**

As at the previous meeting on 13 September concern was expressed regarding lack of support for the first Friday day long exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Council members agreed in future to be contacted by email or text messaging with details of any unfilled half hour slots.

The need to involve young people in the liturgy was discussed; Sam Dixon to research a repeat of the Confirmation 'youth mass'.

'Favourite prayers' from parishioners could be collated for a St Catherine's Parish prayer book.

There are at least two existing prayer groups in the parish. New prayer groups could be set up with parish approval. They would have the greatest chance of success if people were encouraged to start their own where they felt there was a particular need.

#### **5 Acting Justly.**

The parish is committed to always use Fairtrade products where available.

It provides regular financial support to the Premenanda children's orphanage in India.

Though we are good at collecting money for causes, we are less good at raising awareness of what they are. There should be a section on the website for the promotion of things like *More than Gold*.

There was a discussion around the problems Fr Joe faces when people come to the presbytery touting for financial help. This is a regular occurrence which he deals with out of his own pocket.

We should give consideration to having an annual "Ministry of the door" collection to provide Fr Joe with the necessary funds.

To help Fr Joe with callers, David Brinn will research a Food Bank for Frome, and Anna Viccars Barber will contact the Bridge Cafe concerning their voucher system.

We should research reasonable B & Bs for those who call at the door.

The St Vincent de Paul Society does a tremendous job of visiting lonely and sick people. They would like to have more members. Young people should be encouraged to join the Vincent de Paul society, perhaps through a visit to St. Augustine's

#### **AOB**

Sister Briega and Fr Kevin's visit - still no news. Fr Joe will contact their secretary.

Bishop's visit - awaiting his choice of programme

Deanery Pastoral Council Meeting 26th January - we will send two representatives as the topic is 'Youth and a Youth Strategy'

**Next meeting at 7.30 pm Tuesday 8 November in the Parish Hall.**