

## MINUTES OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2009

### **PRESENT**

Fr Gerard, Fr Luke, Sister Bernadette, Sister Stella, Deacon Peter Doran, Dominic FitzPatrick (Chairman), Eve Pollon, Jack Perkins, Kevin McGuigan, Maureen Briscoe, Michael White, Pete Walkden, Yvonne Rowles, Alistair Drain (secretary).

### **APOLOGIES**

Fr Anthony, Fr Brian, Fr Claro, Fr Michael, Maria de la Portilla, Rev David Croucher, Peter Birks, Lorraine Blair, Diane Blake, Angela Hewkin.

#### **1. Prayer**

Sister Stella opened the meeting by reading out the new **one parish island** prayer.

#### **2. Position of the Chairman on the pastoral Council**

Dominic informed the Council that he was no longer a member of the Ryde Pastoral Council. There was a unanimous agreement from the meeting that he should remain chairman of this body until a one parish island, had been achieved. Yvonne said she would speak with Fr Anthony about finding another Ryde representative to sit on this council.

#### **3. Matters arising**

- Sister Stella distributed to each worshipping community copies of the new one parish island prayer.
- Dominic is to remind Fr Gerard to write "an introduction" for the Pastoral Council website.
- Fr Gerard to ask Ellen to contact all worshipping communities to find out who is their "safe guarding co-ordinator".
- There was general agreement that the Confirmation Event had passed off successfully again.

#### **4. Working towards one parish and what this means**

Fr Gerard asked if this item could be considered with agenda items 10. "Roadshows" and item 6. "Management Group". He said that to achieve our goal, we must find out what it really means to move towards a one island parish. We have a huge opportunity and must draw upon the wisdom of those that have already done it as well as our own community. The management group presently consisted of Fr Anthony, Sister Bernadette, Dominic and himself, he believed that it could do with a 5<sup>th</sup> member and everyone was encouraged to forward any suggestions to him as soon as possible. He envisaged the management group devising an implementation strategy, listening to parishioners, spreading the word and organising Roadshows after this work had been completed. There was general agreement

with this process but some members did express their concerns regarding the misunderstanding and confusion that was evident within some worshipping communities. There followed a long discussion on how best to alley these problems, finally Kevin thought that one solution might be to prepare a set of responses to frequently asked questions. Sister Bernadette suggested a future meeting in which Canon Paul Townsend be invited to address the IOW catholic community on how he had overcome the problems and share his experience with everyone. The council agreed that this would be a splendid initiative combined with a time for prayer and the 24<sup>th</sup> September was suggested as a possible date. Fr Gerard agreed to contact Fr Paul and see if he was available.

#### **5. Management Group**

This item had already been covered but members were again reminded to forward any suggestions to Dominic within 7 days.

#### **6. Treasurer's group**

Alistair gave a brief outline of the Treasure's group future agenda. He said that they would be having a presentation on "Living our faith", looking to adopt their "one parish" document and their budgetary best practice code at their next meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

#### **7. Worshipping Communities**

- West Cowes had recently completed a questionnaire and had prepared a new banner supporting service personnel.
- South Wight informed that the demolition of St Wilfreds had started.
- East Cowes had enjoyed a well supported Youth Event and was organising a larger event for 20<sup>th</sup> September.
- Newport said that Fr David had assisted in the Solace tent at the music festival.
- Totland will be working with Newport to organise a joint Mass for both communities on 11<sup>th</sup> October.
- Ryde will be losing the "Presentation Sisters" in August. They have spent more than 60 years on the island and the parish had held a "send off" for them.
- Quarr Abbey had recently separated its book store from its coffee shop.
- The "Pro-Life Group" which worked throughout the island, was achieving great success but still wasn't on the website; Kevin volunteered to contact Charlie Marlow to rectify this situation.

#### **8. Notes from the Co-ordinating Pastor**

Fr Gerard said he had 3 items he wished to raise before the council.

- "Living our Faith" was an initiative to provide significant and long-term funding for the training of new priests and sustaining formation and catechesis throughout the diocese. He informed the council that a target of £9 million had been set and a programme to roll this out was starting over the coming months. Some council

members had already had some experience of the scheme and said that some parishioners had been directly approached due to their previous generosity. There followed a discussion about the tactics employed and the methods used to raise the necessary funds. Fr Gerard encouraged members to raise these issues with Stephen Morgan over the coming weeks.

- Fr Gerard said that after discussion with the Bishop he would write to Fr John Nelson and inform him that we would be known in future as the **Isle of Wight Pastoral Council**.
- Finally, following medical guidance the Bishop had written to everyone to say that with immediate effect, there will be no shaking of hands with the peace greeting, communion would only be received by a host put onto the hand and ministers would be requested to use “cleansing gel” before and after giving communion.

#### 9. **Any other business**

The council was reminded that it was soon to be the 1300 anniversary of St Wilfred and did we need to organise something to commemorate this event. Kevin offered South Wight to host such an event at/near St. Wilfred’s. Members were encouraged to contact Kevin with their suggestions.

Chairman

Date