

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Isle of Wight Pastoral Area Pastoral Council

**Held 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in the McAuley Centre**

**Present** Dominic FitzPatrick (Chair), Fr Gerard Flynn, Fr David McCulloch, Fr Claro Conde, Fr Michael Purbrick, Sr Stella Kelly, Sr Bernadette, Yvonne Rowles, Charlie Marlowe, Michael White, Jack Perkins, Peter Birks, Eve Pollon, Kevin McGuigan

**Apologies** Diane Blake, Fr. Anthony Glaysher, Fr Brian Coogan and Pete Walkden

**Opening Prayer** – Dominic FitzPatrick

### **Agenda**

**1. *Summary Report on the Bishop's visit to the PAPC* -**

Dominic summarised the notes from the Bishops Visit to the Leadership team on 27th February 2009. (copy Attached).

Fr Gerard added that he, Fr Claro and Pete Walkden had attended a meeting on the mainland which had covered Pastoral Areas and new models of working together, and looked at the blocks, resistance, conflict and anger over loss that the process of becoming a single Pastoral Area engenders.

Dominic emphasised that the Island would become one Pastoral Area and that there could be no change or alternative to this.

**2. *Discussion***

***Comments from PAPC members.***

Peter Birks felt that a firm date should be set for this change and suggested Christmas 2010.

Kevin McGuigan felt that if this were to be so, then the clergy and PAPC / Leadership teams should remain in place throughout this time in order to maintain consistency and commitment to the process.

Charlie Marlowe felt that people were gradually accepting of the idea of a Pastoral Area, while others felt that many knew or cared little about the change as it hadn't had any meaningful effect on them as yet.

Sr Bernadette felt that this process should be rooted in prayer.

Sr Stella suggested that a process of education should be

undertaken and perhaps a “road-show” taken to the parishes and worshipping communities. Fr Gerard agreed with this and suggested it should take place after Sunday Mass, be well trailed, publicised and kept short clear and easily presentable.

Dominic FitzPatrick and Fr Gerard discussed the role of and resistance to a central finance and administration for the new single, all Island Parish. They also pointed out that the recession had hit the Diocese and as a result they were asking to know of any projects requiring funding well in advance, with the understanding that it was likely that unless a parish could fund a project, it was unlikely to progress. The Bishop was keen to see the McAuley Centre funded by the Pastoral Area and to see it continue to be used as a resource for the new Island Parish.

Yvonne Rowles expressed concern about keeping worshipping communities alive, if as seemed likely there would need to be a rationalisation of churches, buildings and Mass times across the Island. Others expressed the difficulty of maintaining a regular Sunday Eucharist for all communities.

Fr David McCulloch stressed the need for new kinds of Eucharistic worship, in which the presence of Christ was seen in others, as well as only in the Eucharist.

**2.1. *Agreement on key objectives (a) long term and (b) short term.***

The P APC set a target of being one Island parish by Christmas 2010.

That there should be community consultation and community building.

It was felt that someone from an established “new large parish” should be invited to come and talk to the P APC

**2.2. *Agreement on next steps to meet key objectives including structure of P APC and Leadership team.***

That the P APC should review its make up and frequency of meetings – members to stay until 2010 and to meet every two months instead of three monthly.

That “guidelines” be established for the P APC and how it functions.

Dominic FitzPatrick felt that there should be an executive / leadership team comprising 5 members to drive this project through. Fr Gerard asked to be on this group and appointed Sr Bernadette to join them. Dominic asked that others interested in filling the remaining two places, contact him for consideration

3. ***Approval of Minutes from 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009*** - approved
4. ***Matters Arising*** - none

4.1. ***Support for Isle of Wight Festival Goers 2009*** (Fr. David)

Fr David explained the progress being made to be part of the ecumenical presence in the “solace” tent for the IW festival and how it would provide respite, prayer and hospitality. The provision of this worthwhile place of peace at the festival is actively supported by Quarr Abbey and the PAPC and members were asked to solicit support from parishioners in terms of cake making and financial contributions.

4.2. ***Confirmation (Dominic)***

Confirmation numbers were down this year to around ten young people and would take place in Ryde on the 16<sup>th</sup> July.

4.3. ***Week of guided prayer (Yvonne)*** See attached Paper.

5. ***Publishing meeting minutes on the website.***

Dominic asked if there were any objections to the minutes of the PAPC being published on the Deanery website. There was unanimous support for this.

6. ***Any other business (to be raised with the PAPC Chair prior to the meeting).*** None

***Date of Next meeting – 28-May-2009***

## **Appendix 1 – notes from the Bishops visit**

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**A group of clergy and lay representatives from each of our worshipping community  
Friday 27 February 2009  
St Thomas of Canterbury, McAuley Centre**

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**Attendees:**

Bishop Crispian Hollis	Bishop of Portsmouth	Father Gerard Flynn	Newport and Totland
Mgr John Nelson, VG	Moderator of the Diocesan Curia	Peter Birks	Newport and Totland
Nicky Stevens	Head of Department for Pastoral Formation	Fr Anthony Glaysher	Ryde
Fr Michael Purbrick	Cowes	David Cooper	Ryde
Michael White	Cowes	Dominic FitzPatrick	Ryde
Fr Brian Coogan	East Cowes	Fr Claro Conde	Shanklin
Pete Walkden	East Cowes	Kevin McGuigan	Shanklin
		Ellen McCarthy	Secretary

1. Scripture reading
  - 1.1. Read by Dominic FitzPatrick
2. Opening Prayer/welcome
  - 2.1. Father Gerard opened the meeting with a prayer and welcomed those present.
3. Apologies
  - 3.1. Dianne Blake, for whom we prayed as she is ill at the moment.

4. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss
  - The development of a collaborative leadership team within each Pastoral Area and to affirm developments to date within the Pastoral Area.
  - To clarify and commit to next steps, both short- and long-term, in the process of the Pastoral Area becoming a single parish.
  - To highlight outstanding issues.

In preparation for the meeting material was circulated to each worshipping community on the Island and the responses are the basis of the meeting.

Bishop Crispian imparted that he regarded the meeting as the beginning of a conversation that will be needed on the Island over the next few months/years.

He went on to say he had visited five Pastoral Areas with a further nineteen planned before the end of July.

Three areas have become canonically established parishes. Although different parts of the diocese develop at different speeds, it is the Bishop's wish and the intention of the Pastoral Plan that this should be the pastoral structure of our diocese. There would be 24 parishes with priests and people working even more closely together.

From within our Area Pastoral Council it was recommended that we create an Island Leadership Team to ensure Area Pastoral Council recommendations are executed.

The priority is to build up the sense that the Pastoral Plan and, consequently, the development of the Pastoral Areas as single parishes. The Leadership Team and the Area Pastoral Council will be crucial in that process. To establish both these bodies in some sort of working order by Christmas would be a realistic target.

Bishop Crispian inquired

- a) how the McAuley Centre was utilised and the monetarily aspect of it?

After some discussion Bishop Crispian advised that the McAuley Centre should not be the sole responsibility of St Thomas of Canterbury, Newport. It is used as an Island resource and each worshipping community should contribute to the overall running costs, maintenance, utilities etc. The acceptance of the McAuley Centre as an Island responsibility and resource is something that is achievable in the relatively short term.

**Action: To be added to the next PAPC agenda for discussion**

- b) has the Island appointed a communications officer?

**Action: To be added to the next PAPC agenda for discussion**

A question was put to the meeting as to how church buildings, Island wide, could be maintained and repaired?

Bishop Crispian reported that in each area he has visited there is a residual fear for the loss of identity and the wholesale closing of churches. It's not part of the Pastoral strategy to close churches. If that happens, it will be because of a consensus within the Area itself.

A discussion pursued regarding the Pastoral Area Pastoral Council. This was established at the same time as a Ministerial Group. The Ministerial Group disbanded in autumn 2007 leaving a large PAPC, and no formal Leadership Group. It was agreed that the PAPC should be a smaller group.

**Action: To be added to the next PAPC agenda for discussion.**

It is the engaging of hearts and minds to achieve Communion and Mission for the Church on the Island that must be of paramount importance. The independence for the greater good of the mission of the Church in no way compromises the integrity of an existing parish/worshipping community.