

## MINUTES OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT PASTORAL AREA MEETING 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPT 2009

### **PRESENT**

Fr Gerard, Fr Brian, Sister Stella, Dominic FitzPatrick (Chairman), Angela Hewkin, Eve Pollon, Rosamond Poncia, Jack Perkins, Pete Walkden, Peter Birks, Yvonne Rowles, Alistair Drain (secretary).

#### **1. Prayer**

Fr Gerard opened the meeting with a prayer and welcomed 2 parishioners that were attending the meeting as observers.

#### **2. Apologies**

Fr Anthony, Fr Claro, Fr Luke, Fr Michael, Sister Bernadette, Maria de la Portilla, Rev David Croucher, Deacon Peter Doran, Diane Blake, Kevin McGuigan, Lorraine Blair, Maureen Briscoe, Michael White.

#### **3. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising**

It was noted that the minutes would be amended to “living **our** faith” from “living **the** faith” and the “Management Group” included Sister Bernadette not Sister Stella. The minutes were then agreed and signed.

- Fr Gerard informed the council that he had written “the introduction” for the Pastoral Council website.
- Ellen McCarthy had now received details from each worshipping community as to who was their “safe guarding co-ordinator”.
- Fr John Nelson had confirmed that the island pastoral area was in future to be known as “*the Isle of Wight Pastoral Area*”.

#### **4. Management Group**

Dominic informed the Council that the Management group had met and they were encouraging all parishioners to attend the meeting next Thursday evening at St Thomas of Canterbury church in Newport, to listen to Canon Paul Townsend. Fr Gerard asked everyone to prepare questions and said he was anticipating a good evening of information and prayer.

#### **5. Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> September with Canon Paul Townsend**

This subject had already been dealt with in the previous agenda item.

#### **6. “Roadshows” to communities to discuss this work**

Fr Gerard said that it was important to inform as many people as possible about the aims, objectives and timescale of forming a one island Parish. With the assistance of Peter Birks, a

number of Roadshows had taken place and a further one had been arranged at West Cowes. Peter said he had used the Roadshows to inform communities about “*Subsidiarity*” and *the changing role of our priests*. There followed a discussion concerning the future role and participation of other parish councils in this process and the need for full and active participation. Finally, it was agreed that Dominic would prepare an email for the chairs and priests of each worshipping community, in order to arrange and set up Roadshows throughout the whole catholic community. Peter would be able to liaise with each community once they had replied to Dominic’s email.

**ACTION: Dominic to write an email to all priests and chairs of parish councils.**

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

- Fr Gerard said he was pleased with the work of the management group but was still hopeful of them finding one more member (preferably a woman).
- Next week he was looking forward to the meeting with Canon Paul Townsend and hoped there would be lots of questions from parishioners.
- Fr Gerard said he wanted to thank the Ryde community and Fr Anthony Glaysher for co-ordinating the island’s actions in visiting the relic of Saint Therese de Lisieux, at Portsmouth cathedral.
- “Living our faith” programme was still being rolled out throughout the diocese but had encountered some resistance on the island.
- There are 7 seminarians within the diocese at this time and 1 is from the island. We are looking forward to 2 of that group being ordained next July in the cathedral.

#### **8. Worshipping Communities**

- Sister Stella informed the council that Fr Claro was away in the Philippines but the South Wight community remained busy and active.
- Pete Walkden told the council of the preparations for the “*youth day*” this Sunday. There was disappointment that the organisers had been unable to address the school assembly to publicize the event despite earlier reassurances that they would be able to do so. As a consequence, only 11 tickets had been sold, it was hoped that as much publicity as possible during the next few days, would improve this situation.
- Peter Birks informed the council of planned joint events between the Newport and Totland communities including a Mass and a parish meeting.
- Yvonne told the council of the successful flower festival at St Mary’s during August, a recreational walk from the church to Quarr Abbey and the *Mighty Bite Men’s Breakfast*. Details of other Ryde and Bembridge events and activities will be attached to this set of minutes.

#### **9. Treasurers’ Report**

Alistair informed the council of the recent treasurers’ group meeting when they had debated and adopted a set of “*Budgetary Best Practice Principles*” and a “*One parish Protocol*”. Peter Birks asked if it would be possible to have sight of these documents since

some parish councils didn't deal with any financial matters. There followed a discussion in which it was recognised that this might be a problem for some communities and therefore this would need to be addresses locally.

**Action: Alistair to forward copies of documents to Peter and other members if requested.**

#### **10. Catholic Disability Fellowship representative**

Dominic had received a request for a representative from each community to represent the Disabled. He said that he would email each chairman of the Parish Council to request their assistance in recruiting a suitable person.

**Action: Dominic to write to each parish council chairman.**

#### **11. Knights of St. Columba proposals**

- Dominic informed the council that the Knights had planned a rosary crusade during October.
- Arrangements were being put in place for a special mass for alter servers on St Stephen's feast day on 26<sup>th</sup> December at Newport St Thomas of Canterbury church.

#### **12. Request to change the meetings to an alternative evening**

Dominic canvassed views of council members to see if they would prefer the meetings on another evening. It was agreed to try Wednesdays in future.

#### **13. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 7:00pm at the McAuley Centre.**

Chairman

Signed

