



# Parish of Our Lady of Kirkstall, Leeds

## Parish Pastoral Council Meetings

### Minutes from the meeting on 25 Jan 2017

#### Participants

Margaret Barnes (Chair), Joe Burns (Secretary), Eric Liddell (Vice Chair), Eddie Aitken, Alicja Dale, Marian Emly, Susie Haywood, Peter Hughes, Clare Lees, , James Moreland, Paul Mulligan, Fr Pat Smythe, Michael Teggart, Teresa Todd, Julie Trumble

#### The meeting opened with a welcome and an opening prayer led by Fr. Pat .

#### Key Points and Actions

**Photographs.** The Chair asked that each church community displayed photos of the members of the Parish Council as soon as possible and ensure that agendas and minutes are displayed after this initial meeting in each church.

#### Meeting Frequency

- It was agreed that during 2017 there would be 3 meetings planned.
- The next meeting date was agreed as **27 April at 7:30 pm at St Mary's meeting room.**
- A further meeting will be arranged (at the same venue) around September time

#### Live Simply

- Live Simply is an award scheme for parishes that is administered by CAFOD. It asks parishes to think about and undertake action to live more simply (ensuring that we have enough, rather than more than we need), live more sustainably (living in harmony with our environment) and live in solidarity with the poor (whether in our own area or more globally). Parishes need to undertake a range of practical actions and be able to demonstrate how they have incorporated these principles into all of parish life – including celebration and worship. Only 25 parishes in England and Wales have obtained this award and the only parish in our diocese with the award is St Benedict's in Garforth. Having agreed in principle in 2016 that this would be a good tool for renewal in the parish, this meeting re-affirmed that we will move forward and try to obtain it.
- The first step towards the award is to find out what we are already doing as a parish by doing some sort of a parish audit. The parish CAFOD group had done some preparatory work on this. Two surveys are proposed – a short one for individuals to fill out at Mass one Sunday and another for each group in the parish to provide information. **Action: all members of the council to review the draft survey questions and return any suggestions for changes or additions by 03/02/17**
- Subsequent to the meeting it has been agreed that the survey for individuals will be undertaken at masses on the weekend of 4/5 March. **Action: Joe Burns to ask members of the CAFOD group to help collate the individual survey responses and to volunteer to undertake the groups survey with individual groups and to formulate a briefing note for members of the Parish Council to speak about the Live Simply award at masses on that weekend. James Moreland volunteered to do the survey with St Mary's Menston. Peter Hughes will do the group survey with both schools and volunteered to act as an additional distribution and collection point for the survey forms for individuals. Margaret Barnes agreed to get in touch with the Head at Cardinal Heenan to ask if they would be prepared to be part of this.**
- It is envisaged that the survey results will be processed in time for an initial report to be presented at the next Parish Council meeting in April. This will form the basis for helping the Parish Council to formulate an Action Plan to move us towards obtaining the award – which may well take 12-18 months to complete.

## Relationships with Schools

- The parish has always been linked to the schools through almsgiving.
- The Live Simply award will provide another way in which the schools in the parish can work more closely together and form deeper bonds.
- Executive Head, Peter Hughes, stressed that the schools are open to ideas from the parish for closer involvement in activities.

## Lenten Alms

- It was agreed that in 2017 the parish should support a mental health charity through Lenten Almsgiving. The Council agreed that this would be Leeds MIND.

## Preparing for Fewer Priests

- Fr Pat indicated that he thought this needed to be an ongoing topic for the Council. Both St Mary's and The Assumption communities had experienced periods without a priest. The reality of the current situation is that this is only going to become more likely in the years to come. As a parish we need to be mindful of this and work to ensure that we are a self-sustaining community.
- Everyone on the Council thanked Fr Pat for everything that he does.

## Liturgy

- It was agreed that Stations of the Cross should be used once again at the Penitential Rite of masses during Lent.
- It was agreed that church communities should continue to say the Angelus immediately prior to mass. Many people only see one another when they come to mass so it is only natural that they wish to greet each other and exchange a few words. The Angelus provides a useful way of drawing everyone together and getting better prepared for the start of Mass.
- It was agreed that at the end of the Angelus the prayer leader would announce the intention for that Mass.
- Dates for First Sacraments and for confirmation have been agreed:
  - First Sacraments at Holy Name: May 13<sup>th</sup>
  - First Sacraments at St. Mary's: May 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Confirmations for the parish will take place at St Mary's on May 19<sup>th</sup>
- It was agreed that the Parish Celebration in October would utilise a theme related refugees. It is proposed that we discuss whether we relaunch the Parish as a Parish of Sanctuary and the two primary schools as Schools of Sanctuary at the next meeting in April. If agreed, this would occur at the Parish Feast in October.

## Parish Calendar

- On **23 May** the parish will mark Fr Pat's Golden Jubilee with a mass followed by a supper open to the whole parish at St Mary's church and school. An organising group for this event will be formed nearer the time.
- The Assumption church community are celebrating 60 years of their church this year. At least one event per month has been organised. The formal celebration will be a special mass on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May** followed by a celebration in the Assumption Parish Rooms afterwards. Additional events will include a guided walk around the area associated with the Assumption.

## AOB

- In celebration of Fr Pat's Golden Jubilee it is also proposed that a booklet be put together featuring 50 of Fr Pat's homilies (which he has in digital format). Any funds raised will go towards the work of the Peter Trust. Representatives from each church community will be needed to promote this booklet and take advance orders.