

MEETING: MINUTES OF HOLY GHOST PPC

Attending: Colin Davidson
Alison Ford
Mgr Vincent Harvey
Barbara King
Liz Lovegrove
Richard Luker
Rev Pat Madden
Greg Medalla
Sister Mary Patrick
Tony Spiteri

Apologies
Geraldine Gallacher

Date: Thursday 19th June, 2008

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The meeting opened at 8 pm with a reading of the Gospel for the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, and a short prayer by Mgr Harvey.

1 MATTERS ARISING

1.1 **Stations of the Cross:** Mgr Harvey had had a meeting with the sculptor. First indications were that the cost would be about £800 per station, and that the task would be finished for Lent 2010. The sculptor - Mr Paul Forsey - wanted to learn as much as he could about the parish and its history before starting work, so that he could incorporate references to significant events into the Stations. The point was made that this artist's style would not find universal favour among the congregation, but Mgr Harvey said that it had the features he wanted, namely bright colours and a clear narrative line. He accepted that some would not like it, but felt they would not like anything proposed, and was content to let the order stand. The workshop is important for people to see the process and contribute to the design and raise any issues. Generally the PPC members liked the style and concept.

1.2 **Ministry:** The meeting reviewed a general comparison of Pastoral Area statistics: baptisms of children and of adults, receptions into full communion, FHC, confirmations, marriages and funerals, for the past three years. According to Mgr Harvey, there was a need to involve more people in ministry, though it is not absolutely clear how to set about this. A number of people spoke nostalgically about parish life in the days before St. Bede's church, and the way in which each mass centre had a person who made it their business to notice illnesses and unexplained absences from weekly mass, and be sure the priest was notified. This is still done by a few who keep an eye open for others from their area. This needs to be encouraged.

2 **Stewardship:** 1st November, 2008 will be the parish Stewardship Prayer Day. We need to start planning that without delay. Mgr Harvey said that Kate Harris will be available to help if required. Several people said how much they had enjoyed and appreciated the Stewardship course, and more than one felt it had really changed their lives.

Unfortunately, it is still not easy to see how the Stewardship team will direct its efforts after the sessions have concluded, though a 'Ministry Fayre' is still on the cards.

3 **NWHPA:** This took the form of feedback from a meeting held on 24th May.

a) Youth retreat to Alton Towers. Pat Madden had gone on this. He said it was a good day, and generally well appreciated, but that it had contained too much travel. He felt that next year, or whenever a similar event takes place, the day should be simpler, and the destination closer to home.

b) Meeting of Co-ordinators of Catechesis, 22nd April. This had been an evening meeting, and was reported to have been very successful. There had also been a meeting of Liturgy Planners on the 29th April.

Mgr Harvey said the Pastoral Area was beginning to turn its attention to the following two questions: How can we become one parish, and how can we become one financial area? Mgr Harvey said he believed there was some perceptible progress towards becoming one parish, though he doubted whether the 'man in the pew' realised there was any change at all. As to one financial area, there seemed to be no movement towards that at all.

4 Newsletter: It was agreed that the May PPC minutes should be posted to the website.

Any Other Business

a) Rev Madden said a number of people have expressed interest in the work of Street Pastors. He wanted to keep it from being forgotten, and asked that the item be added to the subjects for future consideration.

b) Mgr Harvey said that a 'Listening Course' has been done by some at St Joseph's. This is similar to training for counselling, but not so advanced; participants are trained to listen and take an interest, but not to express any view whatever. When a number of people have been trained, then the facility can be made available as a service.

c) A formal request has been received for celebration of the mass in the extraordinary (ie Tridentine) form.

5 Date of next Meeting: After a short discussion, it was agreed that PPC will not meet either in August or in September. There will be a brief meeting in St Bede's Meeting Room on 17th July, 2008 at 8.00 pm to discuss any urgent business, and then to say goodbye to Pat Madden, who will shortly be leaving to take up a placement in Fareham.

One item of urgent business for that meeting will be Alton Craft Fair.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.50.

6 It was resolved to carry forward the following items for future consideration:

- 1) Social Committee**
- 2) Lighting/paving etc between church and school**
- 3) Extra-ordinary form of Mass (eg: Tridentine or 1962 Rite)**
- 4) Communications within Parish**
- 5) Social Committee/Autumn Fair**