

# MEETING: MINUTES OF HOLY GHOST PPC

Attending: Colin Davidson  
Elizabeth Ford  
Geraldine Gallacher  
Mgr Vincent Harvey  
Barbara King  
Liz Lovegrove  
Richard Luker  
Greg Medalla  
Sr Mary Patrick  
Tony Spiteri

Apologies:

Date: Tuesday 20th November, 2007

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The meeting opened in the absence of Mgr Vincent, who had been called to visit someone in hospital, and who joined the meeting at 8.45pm.

We opened with a short prayer for God's guidance on the meeting, and also for the person Mgr Vincent was visiting in the hospital.

## 1 MATTERS ARISING

1.1 **Holy Ghost Parish Hall.** The Filipinos are now using HG Hall weekly for a prayer group meeting, and the Polish community has asked for the use of it twice weekly, for language lessons. While this amount of use is evidently not enough to secure the Hall's future, it is at least ensuring some very welcome heating during the winter weather.

1.2 **Stewardship.** Tony gave a full report on the progress of the parish meeting on the evening of 30th October, and this was followed by a number of personal reflections by members. There was unanimous praise for the diocesan staff who had conducted that meeting. There was some discussion of the size of committee this parish should have to organise and administer the scheme, and it was pointed out that at the meeting on 30th October we had been told that it might well take fifteen years for the process to become bedded down as a working practice in the parish. There is to be a further meeting on 27th November of the stewardship steering group to discuss these and other details.

1.3 **Quiz Night.** Geraldine reported that this had been agreed as 1st February, which is a Friday. There will be five rounds, ten questions per round, and a price of £4.00 per ticket was suggested, to include a light snack, but not fish and chips. Geraldine wanted to hear from anyone who was prepared to read out the questions for a round, as it was felt that having a different reader for each round would increase interest.

1.4 **Communications within the Parish.** Someone commented on the St Josephs practice of having a mini-newsletter, as well as the standard size. There was some interest in this, but not enough to warrant changing our habits at present. There was considerable discussion of the use of notice-boards, both the ones we have and others which we might acquire. The feeling of the meeting was that the parish should persevere with making greater use of the notice boards, and should also display photographs of the PPC and of other parish groups.

Action ..... VH/TS

## **2 North-West Hampshire Pastoral Area** How might NWHPA become one parish?

Mgr Vincent, who had arrived by now, explained that the Co-ordinating pastors had been asked to examine this point and feed the result into the next NWHPA meeting. He said that Jersey and Guernsey are already one parish - though it has taken ten years or more for them to attain that position; Winchester, Alresford and Stockbridge are also moving in that direction.

In our own area, we are starting to exchange priests; early results are favourable, though it is early yet. It seems to be felt that where it is possible, activities should be mirrored across the pastoral area/parish. So, for example, the Society of St Vincent de Paul was closed in Holy Ghost Parish 2 or 3 years ago for lack of interest; however, it was maintained in St Josephs, and is now about to be restarted in Holy Ghost, under the auspices of St Josephs. Presumably the SVP does exist in Andover. In the same way, Justice and Peace exists in Andover, and also in Basingstoke. In this way, as much as possible of basic parish work can be largely self-sustaining across the pastoral area/parish, though the process is not helped by the distance between Basingstoke and Andover. Parish teams are building up across the area, with a view to helping the activity along.

At the end of this discussion, it was pointed out that there is a real risk of ill-feeling if this process is pushed too hard. Two years ago, the very concept of pastoral areas was new; now there is already pressure to go further. While there are many people who can take such developments in their stride, there are others, particularly, though not exclusively, the older among us, who like time to become used to change, and react with hostility if they are denied it.

## **3 Extra-ordinary Form of Mass** (eg: Tridentine or 1962 Rite)

Mgr Vincent explained the background to this, and the fact that the current Pope has just relaxed the rules on the celebration of the Former Rite Mass (Tridentine) in Latin. There has been a request received from a member of the parish to have a regular Mass celebrated according to the 1962 rite, and Mgr Vincent wanted to take the views of PPC before replying. The same parishioner has also submitted an item which will appear in the next edition of the Dove.

While it is probably true to say the feeling of the meeting was against any change, though if a need is present then we ought to try to respond, the decision was taken to ascertain in some detail the need in the parish on this matter, and the general view of how much need actually exists.

Mgr Vincent will reply to the query along these lines.

## **4 Items for Newsletter**

It was agreed that the Minutes of the October meeting of PPC should be posted to the parish website.

## **5 Any Other Business**

Two items were raised:

i) Mention had been made of raising money to pay for one or both of the statues of Our Lady and of St Bede which are planned as the next stage of development of St Bedes. A parishioner had been asking details about exactly what was envisaged.

In response, Mgr Vincent said that no decisions of any kind had been taken. *If* money is collected towards the statues, it will be held in reserve, until a general view can be taken of what we want.

ii) A request was made to improve the passage by road from St Bede's School car-park to the church. At night, the surface of the road is not good, and several of the lights are out of action, all of which causes danger to parishioners going between the two points.

Mgr Vincent agreed to bring this to the attention of the school authorities.

**6 Date of Next Meeting**

20th December, 2007, in St Bede's Meeting Room

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50 pm

