

RC PARISH OF CROWTHORNE AND SANDHURST

Minutes of the PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL Meeting held on Thursday 20 April 2017 at 7.30pm in the Immaculate Conception hall

Present: Father Marcus, Lawrence Gaffney (Chairman), Rita Paxton, Gwen Wiseman
(and Sue Niblett - Minutes)

Opening Prayers

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Daniela, Margaret, George, Cyn and Moira.

2. Agree Previous Minutes

The draft Minutes of the previous meeting of 2 March were approved as a true and accurate record.

3. Actions

8.a. AOB/Projectors in Churches (2.12.15) – closed.

8.b. AOB/Dishwasher for Parish Centre (2.12.15) – closed.

4.b. Parish Pastoral Update/Outreach, Justice & Peace (21.4.16.)– George absent from meeting but is still to speak about the parish Safeguarding Policy after all Masses. Carried forward.

(Action George).

4.a. Parish Pastoral Update/Liturgy (21.9.16)– installation of cctv/projector/sound system in the Immaculate Conception hall is still being considered and an appeal is to be made in the Newsletter for any parishioner who might have the expertise to do such work, or advise us. Carried forward. **(Action Margaret).**

8.a. AOB/Pentecost on 3 June (2.3.17) – is also the Titular Feast of the Holy Ghost Church.

As it proved difficult to fix the date of the parish barbeque for Sunday 16 July, it has not been possible to merge these two celebrations. Therefore, Pentecost will be celebrated immediately after the 11am Mass with wine and nibbles being served in the parish room. Closed.

4. Parish Pastoral Update

a. Liturgy – all the Easter Triduum Masses and services were well attended, with a Baptism and Reception taking place during the Vigil Mass. The music at the Holy Thursday Mass was lovely, with both choirs working together, and the Immaculate Church was very full on Easter Sunday morning. Father Marcus commented that everybody actively involved with the Easter Triduum Masses and services should be commended and thanks will appear in this week's Newsletter.

During Holy Week, lots of people went to the 2-hour Confession session on Holy Tuesday and the one-hour session on Good Friday. In addition to this, two parishioners attended the Ascot Penitential Service, although there was nobody from the parish at the Bracknell service.

Father commented that the Sacrament of Reconciliation needs to be promoted, and questioned whether two Holy Week Penitential Services was enough for the whole Pastoral Area.

Divine Mercy Sunday is this coming Sunday 23 April and there is an image displayed in the Holy Ghost Church permanently. We do not have Divine Mercy devotions in this parish but if there were to be a demand in future years it could be considered.

Following the Christmas Masses, a parishioner had complained that the smell of incense in the Immaculate Conception church was overpowering because the windows were closed.

Incense is not used at Holy Ghost due to lack of altar servers. Fr Marcus reminded all present that if anybody has a complaint or comment to make about liturgical matters, they should address them to him directly and he will respond accordingly.

b. Outreach, Justice & Peace – nothing to report.

c. Youth

All youth work in the parish is aimed at the Confirmation group and there is nothing being offered to anyone above this age. Initiatives might be to encourage more youngsters to attend the next Flame Congress in 2019. The Bright Lights Youth Festival for 16-30 year olds is being held in Staffordshire in June, but it is too late to organise a trip now. The next World Youth Day is in Panama in 2019 and the parish might wish to consider sponsoring 1 person to go, or perhaps encourage youngsters to fund raise to cover their own costs. Gwen will find out what other events are running this year and report at the next meeting. **(Action Gwen).**

d. Social& Communication– the St Patrick’s afternoon tea party was once again a great success. There will be a tombola/nearly-new sale on Sunday 23 April to raise funds for the parish. The parish barbeque will be on Sunday 16 July in Sandhurst. Other events to be considered for later in the year is a coach trip, a car treasure hunt and the Seniors’ Christmas party.

e. Catechesis – 7 candidates (4 boys and 3 girls) attended the first Confirmation session, which went very well. Rita and Patricia will be taking the group to Wisdom House, Romsey on Saturday 13 May. A bus will be hired and they should return to the parish in time for the Vigil Mass. A visit to Worth Abbey will not be possible as its Safeguarding procedures do not match our parish requirements.

Only 12 children (5 absent) attended the most recent Come Follow Me session on 19 April, possibly because of the school holidays. There will be no First Holy Communion celebration this year and perhaps not until 2019, when the children might be asking for the Sacrament. We need to complete a full 3 year cycle of the programme to see how it works out. However, we should start reminding parishioners now about the Come Follow Me programme so that the next batch of first years can be enrolled.

All were reminded that there is no Children’s Liturgy at the Holy Ghost Church due to lack of volunteers. It was suggested that a recruitment fair might be considered.

f. Pastoral Area – nothing to report.

g. Christian Community –Sandhurst Churches Together (SCT) has taken up the “Thy Kingdom Come” National Prayer Initiative and will be leading a prayer walk on 25 and 27 May, and will read prayers from request sheets previously distributed around local shops and businesses. Rita will send them a prayer from this parish. **(Action Rita).**

The SCT ‘Act of Witness’ half hour drama outside the Sandhurst Community Centre on Good Friday was only attended by people from the churches involved. We have to try and encourage others to attend next year.

5. Pastoral Initiatives Update

a. Diocesan Pilgrimage (Gwen) – Gwen had asked parishioners where they would like to go on an overseas parish pilgrimage but there was no consensus. As it is too late to organise one for this year, it was suggested that parishioners might like to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 18 to 25 August. Wokingham parish is going and perhaps our parishioners could join with them. Gwen will contact Fr John Cooke for more information and publicise in the Newsletter. **(Action Gwen).** This Pastoral Initiative is now closed.

b. ‘Flame Congress’ (Rita) – Rita and Millie Hare had escorted 4 of our Confirmation candidates to this youth event at Wembley on Saturday 11 March, travelling in the coach organised by Frimley parish. Rita reported that it was a very worthwhile and enjoyable day and recommended that we book a coach and take our own group to the next event in 2019. This initiative is now closed.

c. Local Pilgrimage (Fr Marcus) – The pilgrimage to Glastonbury is now confirmed and the coach has now been booked for 9th July. Tickets will be available shortly from the parish office.

6. **New Pastoral Initiatives**– nothing to report.

7. **Issues for this meeting**- none

8. **Any other business**

a. Alton Day of Renewal – a parishioner has asked if we might hold a similar day in this parish. After some discussion Father Marcus said that he would give some consideration to holding a Day of Recollection during Advent.

b. Our Lady of Fatima Centenary–celebrations are taking place in England this year to mark the occasion and this could be another opportunity for a parish pilgrimage.

c. Cyn – is still undergoing treatment and we will send her a card and message to let her know we are all praying for her speedy recovery. (**Action Lawrence**)

d. PPC - the Filipino community is a valued part of our parishlife and Father Marcus will invite a representative to consider joining the PPC. (**Action Fr Marcus**).

9. **Date and time of next meeting** – Thursday 1st June 2017 at 7.30pm in the Immaculate Conception Church hall.

Closing Prayers

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Distribution:	Father Marcus Brisley	Daniela Chapman	Margaret Derlacki
	George Fanning	Lawrence Gaffney (Chair)	Cyn Hopkins
	Rita Paxton	Moiria Taylor	Gwen Wiseman
	Darwin Bagalacsa (invited guest to next meeting)		
	Sue Niblett (Minutes)		