

RC PARISH OF CROWTHORNE AND SANDHURST

Minutes of the PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL Meeting held on Tuesday 12 February 2013 at 7.30m in the Parish Centre, Sandhurst

Present: Father Kevin, Lawrence Gaffney (Chair), Margaret Derlacki, Cyn Hopkins, Rita Paxton, Gwen Wiseman.

Opening Prayers

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from George and Daniela.

2. Agree Previous Minutes

The draft Minutes of the previous meeting of 4th December were approved as a true and accurate record, except for item 4.a, where the Penitential Service will be held at the Holy Ghost Church and not, as stated, in the Immaculate Conception Church.

3. Actions

8.b. Immaculate Conception Notice Board (20/09/11) – the latest quote from the signage company is £225 plus VAT and the modified layout is acceptable with minor changes. Fr Kevin will place an order and will also pursue a wall plaque in a similar style for the Holy Ghost Church. Closed.

4.e. Outreach (24/04/12) – more volunteers needed to help with refreshments after Sunday Mass at Sandhurst. Margaret has not been able to recruit any more helpers so far but will continue to try whenever the opportunity arises. Closed.

4.f. Catechesis (24/04/12) – “Our Child’s Baptism” and “Our Catholic Faith” DVDs. Items purchased; awaiting delivery. Closed

8.a. Steps up to choir loft in Holy Ghost (9/10/12) – the spiral staircase should be replaced by something safer and sturdier. Fr will contact the diocesan architect and will raise the issue at the next Finance Committee meeting in March. Ongoing. **(Action Fr Kevin)**.

4.a. Liturgy (4/12/12) – Monica was an excellent choice of organist for the Christmas Day mass and we would not hesitate to ask her to play again. Closed.

7.a. World Youth Day in UK (4/12/12) – see item 5.c below. Closed.

8.a. Parking at Holy Ghost Church (4/12/12) – a notice has been put in the Newsletter asking able-bodied parishioners to refrain from using the Holy Ghost Church car park so that the space can be used by those less able. Closed

4. Parish Pastoral Update

a. Liturgy – Chrism Mass Tuesday 26th March, Portsmouth. All priests in the diocese are hoping to attend and to meet the new bishop.

Parish Triduum celebrations will be held this year at the Holy Ghost Church.

A message from the bishop is due to be read out on Laetare Sunday.

Fr Kevin, Linda Tranter and Gwen need to have a meeting to discuss the Easter liturgy.

Monica will be available to play the organ. Fr Kevin would like Gwen to perform the “Exultet”. **(Action Fr Kevin/Gwen)**.

Fr Kevin is considering a dress code for readers and ministers of the Eucharist. **(Action Fr Kevin)**.

b. Justice & Peace – New “DBS” forms have made the old “CRB” forms invalid.

c. Youth – see items 5.f and 6.a.

d. Social & Communication – the senior parishioners’ Christmas lunch and the quiz night went very well thanks to the usual hard work by the organisers and helpers. The next Social Committee event will be the St Patrick’s Social and Race Night on 16th March, then the parish barbecue on 13th July – clear of the Donkey Derby – followed by a coach trip to Brighton on 21st September. A “film night” is planned for October and then it will be time to plan Christmas events once more.

e. Outreach – nothing new to report.

f. Catechesis – parents’ sessions will be required in future for both the Confirmation and Holy Communion preparation groups.

There is a problem with a few parents leaving their children at the First Communion Masses; it needs to be emphasised that the parents are required to stay.

The First Communicants’ Sunday Mass went well.

Michelle and Dianne have indicated that they are willing to help with next year’s First Communion preparation.

There will be one baptism and two “receptions” at this year’s Easter Vigil.

g. Pastoral Area – at the next meeting of the clergy Fr Kevin will discuss the opening up of the parish pilgrimage to the wider PA. He will also discuss the difficulties in providing supervised activities for the youth of the parishes.

h. Christian Community – see item 7.a.

5. **Pastoral Initiatives Update**

a. Parish Census and Database (Rita, Lawrence) – Rita is reviewing the current census form to identify improvements such as including the gender of the parishioner, as it is not always obvious from the forename. Lawrence will shortly install Open Office in Rita’s PC to enable access the census database.

b. Induction of New Parishioners (Fr Kevin) – Ongoing.

c. Children’s Stations of the Cross (Cyn) – seven boards now completed (no frames yet); waiting for a supply of new boards. Hopefully they should all be completed in time for the children’s Good Friday Stations of the Cross at the Immaculate Conception Church.

d. PPC Awayday to Cold Ash (nr Thatcham) (Rita) – Rita will now try to organise the retreat for 1st June.

e. Parish Pilgrimage to Rome (Gwen) – about seven people attended the planning meeting on 11th December. The next meeting will be on 27th February at 7.30pm at the Parish Centre Sandhurst where numbers will be “firmed up” and deposits requested. Currently about 20 – 25 people are showing interest and about 15 of those are “definites”.

f. Youth Club (Rita) – lack of adult volunteers caused cancellation of last weekend’s youth club meeting and it is likely that the current youth club will “fold”. Attendance has been poor, typically between three and six youths per meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 9th March but Rita will discuss this with Dave Hill before then. An attempt will be made at the formation of the next Confirmation and Holy Communion groups to involve parents in helping with the youth; the youth group age limit could also be lowered, as in Wokingham.

g. “Year of Faith” CaFE dvd (Rita) – the daytime sessions will continue once a month at Crowthorne only. Nobody turned up last time for the Sandhurst evening meeting.

6. **New Pastoral Initiatives:**
a. World Youth Day in UK (Gwen) – Cyn will approach the Social Committee next week. A donation to the diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage had already been considered but this could go instead towards the UK World Youth Day, since the parish will now take a collection to support a child from here to go on the pilgrimage. A complication though is the viability of the parish youth club and also the requirement that attendees be aged at least 16.years.
7. **Issues for this meeting:**
a. Crowthorne Food Bank – currently there is a “glut” of food at the Crowthorne-based Food Bank. A request to authorise and distribute food vouchers from the IC parish office was turned down mainly on security grounds though there were other misgivings too. It was suggested that the vouchers could be issued at Food Bank depot instead. **(Action Rita).**
8. **Any other business**
a. Parish Web Site – the new parish web site will soon be ready and its URL will be: www.crowsand.co.uk. Hosting the site will cost about £70 per annum. Photographs of the PPC should be included in the site; Lawrence to email them to Sue. **(Action Lawrence).** The parish owes a big debt of gratitude to Martin Stubbs for his work over many years on the current web site.

b. Lenten Collection – the bishop has suggested that a collection be taken up during Lent in each parish in order to provide a religious item to enhance the parish, for example a new crucifix in our Parish Centre. However, we have already initiated Lenten collections for our Burma and Chidamoyo charities.
9. **Date and time of next meeting**
The next meeting will be on Wednesday 10th April at 7.30pm in the Sandhurst Parish Centre.

Closing Prayers

Meeting closed at 9.40pm

Distribution:	Father Kevin	Daniela Chapman	Margaret Derlacki
	George Fanning	Lawrence Gaffney	Cyn Hopkins
	Rita Paxton	Gwen Wiseman	