

## RC PARISH OF CROWTHORNE AND SANDHURST

### DRAFT Minutes of the PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL Meeting held on Thursday 12 January 2017 at 7.30pm in the Immaculate Conception hall

**Present:** Father Marcus, Margaret Derlacki, Lawrence Gaffney (Chairman), Rita Paxton  
(and Sue Niblett - Minutes)

#### Opening Prayers

#### 1. Apologies

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

#### 2. Agree Previous Minutes

The draft Minutes of the previous meeting of 10 November were approved subject to a correction to Item 3.4.a. Parish Pastoral Update/Liturgy (21.9.16) – “The supplier made a site visit on 8 November...” not 19 September.

#### 3. Actions

8.a. AOB/Projectors in Churches (2.12.15) – ongoing. **(Action George).**

8.b. AOB/Dishwasher for Parish Centre (2.12.15) – ongoing. **(Action George).**

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. A date is to be agreed with Father Marcus, before Lent. **(Action George).**

4.a. Parish Pastoral Update/Liturgy (21.9.16)– re installation of cctv/projector/sound system in the Immaculate Conception hall. The hall was packed with people again at the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, who could hear the Mass but not see it. Following an initial estimate of around £1,000, a final cost of approximately £3,000 (including VAT) was received in early December. As it was too much of a rush to install the system in time for Christmas, the work was postponed, which will allow time for further discussion. If we don't want to install a projector and screen, we can investigate having a camera in the choir loft, linked to a closed circuit television in the hall, as has been done previously, although long ago dismantled. It was agreed to make an appeal in the Newsletter for any parishioner who might have the expertise to do such work, or advise us. **(Action Margaret).**

#### 4. Parish Pastoral Update

a. Liturgy – the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass was packed. Unfortunately, the children were blocked from entering the church to sing their carol by visitors leaving early. The Christmas Day Mass at Immaculate Conception was less well attended but still good. The music at all the Christmas Masses was fully covered this year, thanks to the organists and folk groups.

The Easter Triduum will be held in the Immaculate Conception this year and Easter Sunday is on 16 April. Ash Wednesday is on 1<sup>st</sup> March and there will be Mass at 10.00am at Holy Ghost and at 7.30pm at Immaculate Conception (immediately after ‘Come Follow Me’).

Stations of the Cross will be held at 12 noon every Friday in the Holy Ghost, starting on 10 March, and will be open to Churches Together in Crowthorne as part of their Lent programme. It is unlikely that soup will be served because of lack of take-up in previous years, unless somebody wants to organise it. Rita to double check. **(Action Rita).**

Stations of the Cross will be held at 7.30pm every Wednesday in the Immaculate Conception, starting on 8 March (immediately after ‘Come Follow Me’ session).

Children's Stations of the Cross will be held at 10.00am on Good Friday 14 April at Holy Ghost, followed by Confession. Father Marcus will be in the church to offer Margaret support. There will be two Penitential Services in the Pastoral Area, dates to be confirmed.

The Blessing of Easter food service will be held again this year, on Saturday 15 April, time and venue to be confirmed.

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

c. Youth– nothing to report.

d. Social & Communication– to date, 30 tickets have been sold in Sandhurst for the Quiz Night on 28 January, with tickets being sold in Crowthorne this week. St Patrick's afternoon tea party will be on Sunday 19 March in Immaculate Conception hall. Father Marcus was informed that Our Lady's School is very supportive of the parish. They allow us free use of the hall for the Seniors' Christmas party, and an offering of £20 is given for using the hall for the annual Quiz Night. Future social events are the summer bbq and a tombola and nearly new sale. Dates to be advised.

e. Catechesis – the Come Follow Me course is running well with all the children attending the first session back after the Christmas break - 17 in total. Fr Simon plans to run the same course in Yateley and has been invited to sit in on one of our sessions to see how it all works. There will be no First Holy Communion celebration this year. There are currently 8 candidates for Confirmation and there will be a catechists meeting next Monday to set the timetable.

f. Pastoral Area – the clergy have now met. Fr Kevin Jones retires from Ascot parish this week and the new parish priest will be Fr Kevin Bidgood.

g. Christian Community – the Sandhurst Churches Together (SCT) Christmas Carol Service was reviewed at the recent clergy fraternal meeting which Father Marcus attended. Father had been the Master of Ceremonies at the service which, unfortunately, had not been well attended. The purpose of the service is to bring the community together and attract people who may not attend church regularly. An alternative suggestion for next year is a 'travelling' Nativity Play, which the SCT committee will consider and decide upon. The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity Service, presented by SCT, will take place this coming Sunday at the Methodist Church, Sandhurst and will be publicised in our Newsletter. SCT has invited Churches Together in Crowthorne to the service.

## 5. **Pastoral Initiatives Update**

a. Diocesan Pilgrimage (Gwen) – No update, Gwen absent from meeting.

b. 'Flame Congress' (Rita) – aimed at those aged between 14 and 25 years, taking place in Wembley on Saturday 11 March, costing £22 per person. About 60 invitations have been sent out but only one reply received to date. The 'Couples for Christ' group was thinking of going, so we could perhaps join forces. **(Action Rita)**.

6. **New Pastoral Initiatives**– none.

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

## 8. **Any other business**

a. Local Pilgrimage – various options for a day pilgrimage were considered. The National Shrine of St Joseph is now in Farnborough Abbey. St Joseph's Day is on Monday 20 March, so it might be possible to celebrate Mass at the shrine, with devotions; Clifton Diocese visits the abbey ruins at Glastonbury every year and the date this year is Sunday 9 July. A Sunday is considered not ideal, and it will clash with Sandhurst Songs of Praise which Rita would attend, and is a 2 hour coach journey each way; a London venue might suit, possibly Tyburn Convent

or Westminster Catholic Cathedral. Father will consider the options but was reminded that the annual parish bbq is usually held in late June/early July. Carry forward to next meeting as New Pastoral Initiative sponsored by Fr Marcus. **(Action Lawrence.)**

9. **Date and time of next meeting** – Thursday 2 March 2017 at 7.30pm in the Immaculate Conception Church hall.

### **Closing Prayers**

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

**Distribution:** Father Marcus Brisley  
George Fanning  
Rita Paxton  
Sue Niblett (Minutes)

Daniela Chapman  
Lawrence Gaffney (Chair)  
Moira Taylor

Margaret Derlacki  
Cyn Hopkins  
Gwen Wiseman