

# To be agreed by CPC Committee at 11<sup>th</sup> February meeting

## Birtley St. Joseph's Church Pastoral Council Meeting

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Present

Bernadette Bartlett,	BB	Mick Davison	MD
Hilda Fraser	HF	Peter Lavery (Deacon)	PL
Peter Monaghan (Minutes)	PM	Pauline Pestell	PP
Tom Quigley (Chair)	TQ	Margaret Taylor	MT
Catherine Tumelty	CT		

### Apologies

Hannah Bartlett	HB	Doreen Cantwell,	DC
Michelle Irwin	MI	Darren Kelsey	DK
Fr Martin Wheaton	FrMW		

TQ opened the meeting with a prayer from the website of Pope Francis.

TQ welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2024 and said that FrMW had been unable to attend the meeting as he had been called out to the hospital.

### Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

#### **Error in minutes**

MT pointed out that there had been an error on Page 4 of the CPC Minutes for December 2023. "The Year 4 teachers at St Benet's and St Cuthbert's were very committed" should have read "The Year 4 teachers at St Benet's and St Joseph's were very committed".

#### **Church Wall**

MD said that the matter was now with the insurance company.

#### **Outdoor Crib**

PL said that parishioner Paul Kitching had done a marvellous job of repairing and redecorating the crib.

#### **Benedict Partnership Carol Service 20th December St Joseph's, Birtley**

CT sent thanks from the YMG for the wonderful Carol Service.

#### **Refreshments following Funerals in Parish Centre**

TQ said that he had sent a "Thank You" letter along with a card to Olga in recognition of her service to the parish over the years.

#### **Sacraments**

##### **Reconciliation**

PL said that Reconciliation dates for the schools had been arranged with FrMW. The dates were the 19th February for St Benet's and 26th February for St Joseph's

### **First Holy Communion (FHC)**

PL said that the First Holy Communion Mass dates for St Benet's and St Joseph's had also been arranged. The FHC Mass for St Joseph's would be held on Saturday 18th May at 10:00am while the FHC Mass for St Benet's would be held on Saturday 8th June at 10am.

### **Prayer Companion letters**

PL commented that the Prayer Companion letters from the First Holy Communion children had been received very well in the parish. CT asked if it would be possible for parishioners to send letters back to the children and PL said that it was possible but that they should be sent back through the FHC teachers.

### **Confirmations**

MD said he had no new information on Confirmations but stressed that they would definitely be held in 2024.

### **List of Special Collections**

MD said he had distributed the list of the Special Collections around the various parish groups.

The minutes of the meeting from 10th December 2023 were then agreed.

### **Season of Lent - Ash Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

PL said that there was a tried and trusted list of Lenten events from past years which he would like to follow but he would need to run it past FrMW who couldn't make the meeting. Events planned were:

#### **Ash Wednesday**

There would be a Mass at midday but there was no provision for working members of the parish. He wondered if it would be possible to distribute Ashes at the Tuesday evening Mass but that would be up to FrMW to decide. It was pointed out that Masses were being held at different times on Wednesday across the partnership so working people could attend those if they couldn't make midday Mass at St Joseph's. It was also pointed out that the w/c 12th February was half term so a lot of parents would be on holiday to look after children.

#### **First Sunday of Lent**

PL said that there would be a Mass at St Mary's Cathedral for the candidates who wished to be received into the church.

#### **Holy Hour Sunday 25th February**

Holy Hour would be held in Church in the afternoon of Sunday 25th February.

#### **Stations of the Cross**

It was hoped to hold Stations of the Cross led by the various parish groups during the week throughout Lent and it was suggested that a good time to hold them would be following midday Mass on Thursday and offer them online to other churches in the partnership. MD said that if it was wished to hold the service while moving between stations, the TV camera would be unable to follow the process as some stations were out of view but suggested that still images of each station could be displayed on the screen in church while the service was proceeding. It was agreed that this was a good suggestion and MD said that he would raise it at the PDG meeting on Thursday 18th January.

#### **Family Fast Days**

PL suggested having regular Family Fast Days throughout Lent but MD suggested that it may be better to do positive things during Lent rather than giving things up. He said that the parish could raise money to give to foodbanks or Vinnies or other charities.

### **Lenten Meditations**

PL said that there would be the usual links provided for Lenten Meditations

### **Holy Week and Easter**

PL said that the priests had already pencilled in events for Holy Week. He said that St Joseph's would have a Mass on Maundy Thursday although the time was yet to be decided. Every church would have a service at 3pm on Good Friday and there would be 3 Vigil Masses across the partnership on Holy Saturday while every church would have a Mass on Easter Sunday morning. He said that at St Joseph's 5 candidates from the Journey of faith would be received into the Church. He said that he hoped that there would be plenty of altar servers for Holy Week and Easter and MD said that John Sexton would be arranging that.

### **Benedict Partnership**

MD said that the arrangements for Confirmation and Reconciliation across the Partnership for Holy Week would be finalised at the PDG Meeting on Thursday 18th January.

It was mentioned at the meeting that the Partnership Bulletin still contained no definite time for regular weekly Reconciliation at St Joseph's. PL said that FrMW was very good at accommodating parishioners when they wished to come to him for reconciliation privately but said that he would push FrMW to arrange a regular time during the week. MD said that he had written to the Partnership Bulletin in August specifying the period after midday Mass on Thursdays as a regular time for Reconciliation and that had appeared in the bulletin but then disappeared. TQ asked MD to remind the bulletin team of his original request about Reconciliation at St Joseph's.

### **Possible Event in Church Grounds in 2024**

CT said that she had been requested by Anne Marshall to see if an outdoor event could be organised in 2024. She said that these had been successful in 2022 with the Queen's Jubilee and in 2023 with the Coronation and wondered if a celebration could be held in 2024. MD said that any outside event would be dependent on the weather. MT suggested holding another Parish picnic and said this could possibly become an annual event. The meeting was amenable to the suggestion and it was thought that Sunday 14th July 2024 may be a suitable date.

### **Outdoor Masses this year**

CT suggested that it may be a good idea to hold a Mass for the Lamesley Martyrs in August to commemorate their martyrdom. The meeting thought that this was a good idea and MD said that he could invite Canon Paul Farrer the Dean of the St Mary's Cathedral at Middlesbrough to attend. Canon Paul was linked to the Lamesley Martyrs as he had previously been the Dean of the English College in Valladolid which the martyrs had attended.

### **SVP Mass for the Sick and Housebound - June 2024**

PM said that the SVP intended to hold a Mass for the Sick and Housebound on Saturday 22nd June 2024. He said that the last Mass for the Sick and Housebound had been held in June 2019 and that

changes since then especially the fact Saturday Mass was now celebrated at 5:00pm rather than 6:00pm had caused some alteration to the schedule as the original time for the Mass at 2:30pm and the time allocated for the following tea would now encroach on the 5:00pm mass. He said that it was now hoped to hold the Mass at 2:00pm which would hopefully allow enough time for the Mass and the tea afterwards in the Parish Centre. He said that he hoped that one of the partnership priests would be available to say Mass on that afternoon. Another problem was that a Dance Class was normally held in the Parish Centre between 10:00am and 2:00pm and that they would need to finish early (approximately 12:30pm) to allow the room to be set up for the afternoon tea. MD confirmed that the booking had been taken by the Parish Centre and that there should be no problem in asking the Dance Class to finish early. PM said that confirmation of the availability of the Parish centre and a priest would allow the SVP to get on with planning the programme for the Mass. PL said that the Sick and Housebound were important to the parish and that a parish Thanksgiving Day could be incorporated into the Mass.

### **Schools - Parish & School partnership**

#### **St Benet's**

BB said that the surveys had now been completed and that there were going to be demountable buildings on the site. It was hoped to have the whole school back on site possibly after the summer half term and definitely after the summer holidays in September. Discussions were now taking place on the new build but she thought that this would take some time.

PP left the meeting at this stage.

#### **St Joseph's**

PL said that there were still legal issues do with the covenant on the land proposed for the new school and there had been little progress recently.

### **Prayers for next meeting**

MD offered to do the prayers for the next meeting.

### **AOB**

#### **Catholic Calendar**

CT said that she had noticed that the latest edition of the Catholic Calendar showed no times of services for St Joseph's and the Washington churches other than weekend Mass times and inquired as to the reason. She said that there seemed to be little point in buying the calendar if that sort of information wasn't in. PL said that Audrey Huntley was responsible for providing the Mass details for the calendar by 1st August of the preceding year and that the clergy should be telling Audrey what details to put in the calendar. CT said that she would take up the matter.

#### **CPC Secretary**

PM said that wished to resign as secretary of the CPC as he had been doing the job for 5 years and that there were a lot of other things currently taking up his time. He said that he would be stepping down from the job either after the April Meeting or the parish AGM if one was to be held this year.

### **Date and Time of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm.

TQ closed the meeting with another prayer from the website of Pope Francis.