

Notes from the meeting of St Joseph's Church Pastoral Council

Sunday 8th December 2024 at 7p.m. in the Presbytery.

Opening prayer was led by Pauline Pestell.

Present: Hilda Fraser, Catherine Tumelty, Mick Davison, Pauline Pestell, Doreen Cantwell, Margaret Taylor, Jan Rafalski, Peter Monaghan.

Apologies: Michelle Urwin, Tom Quigley, Bernadette Bartlett, Fr Martin.

Matters arising from the minutes.

- Birtley Churches together. Catherine Barrett had agreed to be a parish representative. CT would contact Sandra Neal, chair, so she would know about this and be able to pass on information re. future dates/meetings to Catherine Barrett. A thank you to Catherine Barrett for agreeing to take on this role.
- Carol service – MT said that this would take place on 22nd December instead of the usual Sunday liturgy. It would be followed by the coffee morning in the parish centre.
- Fr MW has sent off the diocesan volunteer forms off. There were a few more to follow.
- Parish coffee morning had been a social and financial success. The £1553 raised on the morning was made up to £1700 by the Parish Centre. HF wished to thank Ann Marshall and her team for their hard work.
- Constitution. MD assured the meeting that guidelines from the diocese would be available very soon. We will look at the constitution at the February meeting.

Year of Jubilee.

MD informed the meeting that there is a section on the diocesan website about the Year of Jubilee. He suggested that all members looked at the information and that we would have a meeting in January to discuss this in further detail and make plans to celebrate the year in the parish.

We will meet in the presbytery on Sunday 12th January.

The Holy Doors in the diocese will be opened on Sunday 29th December at St. Mary's Cathedral and St. Joseph's, Hartlepool.

Parishes close to the Cathedral are being asked to support existing staff and volunteers by 'manning' the cathedral in the afternoons 1-4p.m.

There is a Jubilee prayer which parishes are being encouraged to say before or after mass.

World wide there are particular days celebrating specific aspects of life.

Benedict Partnership – Possible changes

MD informed the meeting that Fr Michael Griffiths had discussed the possibility of St. Cuthberts and St Bedes moving into the Finchale Partnership. MD had written a letter expressing his concerns about the future of the Benedict Partnership if only two parishes, John XXIII and ourselves remained.

Bishop Stephen has announced the new Deaneries in the diocese.

Parish Management Issues

Parish bulletin – this will be discussed at the February meeting.

MD will check the situation re the ordering of Northern Catholic Calendars and Ordo for the parish.

CT will contact Christine Brennan, who is currently putting together a new rota for bidding prayer writers, to ask that individuals ensure that the prayers are placed on the lectern before Saturday evening mass.

MD asked that all members keep a list of any items that need to be considered/remembered about re parish management.

List of roles/jobs where parishioners could support.

MT reported back that she had contacted the individuals who had signed up to support the parish. As HF had suggested previously it became apparent when talking to these new volunteers that it would have been helpful to have a list of possible roles/jobs.

The new volunteers have already got involved in a number of ways including reading, welcome and putting up the Christmas tree.

MD responded that he had an existing list which he would provide in the new year and CT has a list of contacts for those leading different ministries. It was suggested that we could do something in the new year to again raise involvement.

Birtley Churches Together – covered in Matters Arising.

Schools – there was no one at the meeting who was able to give any updates.

A.O.B.

MT asked if there was music needed at the Penitential service. MD would ask about this.

MT raised the subject of confirmations and asked if the Parish council were happy for her to speak to Fr Martin and try to put a programme in place. This was given the go ahead.

CT said that following the success of the coffee morning Ann Marshall had suggested a summer picnic.

HF wanted to express thanks to the First Communion catechists for all their hard work. Thanks to Bev Wildish for the beautiful Jesse Tree service she led.

MD said that there had been two extra special collections this year, 11th Feb for the Lourdes Youth group and one in May to support the First Holy Communion programme. He asked if we were happy to include these again in the special collections list. MD is hoping to have the list drawn up very soon but is waiting for a possible missionary collection to be confirmed.

Prayers for next meeting - Peter Monaghan

Next meetings

Sunday 12th January 2025 – Jubilee Year

Sunday 9th February 2025

Closing prayer read by JR as PP had to leave the meeting early.