

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

Sunday 10th November at 7p.m. in the Presbytery.

Tom Quigley opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present: Fr Martin Wheaton, Hilda Fraser, Bernadette Bartlett, Peter Monaghan, Catherine Tumelty, Jan Rafalski, Pauline Pestell, Margaret Taylor, Tom Quigley, Mick Davison.

Apologies for absence: Michelle Irwin.

Minutes were corrected by adding Bernadette Bartlett to those names in attendance.

MD had been asked by Adrian Flynn about putting the tribute to Deacon Peter on the parish website, with permission from the family. TQ will speak to Pauline about this.

Matters arising.

MT had asked Catherine Barrett about being the parish representative on Birtley churches together but was waiting for a response.

TQ is still to speak to FrMW about the burial of ashes.

Gary Bartlett has agreed to take on the role of health and safety representative.

We still need to appoint a chair.

MD fed back from the Lourdes presentation night that there are several new young people who would like to travel with the pilgrimage in 2025.

Parish Management Issues.

Our new lectionaries will be paid for by the collection taken at Deacon Peter's funeral. The family have asked that the main lectionary is given in memory of Peter and a dedication put into the front.

Christmas trees are ordered and will be delivered before the beginning of Advent. Jesse tree celebration will take place on 1st December.

CT had spoken to Pauline who had mentioned several things that were ongoing, including the completion of the painting of church.

TQ spoke about some damaged stained glass. MD said he had the details of a company who would look at this.

Advent/Christmas

MD provided the details for celebrations in St Joseph's and John XXIII for everyone.

There was a discussion about the lack of a carol service at St. Joseph's. MD responded that in the previous two years there had been a very poor turnout. MT suggested she could ask the Sunday morning group if they might do readings/carol service on the 4th Sunday.

The memory tree will be put in place to allow parishioners to remember loved ones.

New volunteers

CT brought the names of those who had signed up to the 'Be more like Peter' sheets.

MT said she would contact these people and invite them to get involved.

HF wondered if it would be easier if we had a list of the range of roles available.

Diocesan Census of Volunteers.

CT confirmed that FrMW would send off the final forms to the diocese. The parish would then receive information from the diocese, especially where there was a need for a DBS.

PP asked if Pauline Lavery would still be continuing in the role of Parish Safeguarding Representative.

Parish Coffee morning.

CT asked if anyone was available to help set up on Saturday 23rd Nov after the evening mass and clear up on Sunday morning.

Constitution/Purpose of CPC

CT had resent this document which will be discussed at the February meeting.

MD said that the bishop is looking to restructure some organisations by the end of the year. There was a proposal to create 5/6 Deaneries, with partnerships grouped together.

Laity/clergy would come together at Parish council and Partnership levels, while the clergy would meet at Deanery councils.

The diocese is looking for a model constitutional for Parish councils which could support our own discussion in February.

Photographs of CPC members - The majority of these were taken ready to display at the back of church.

TQ left the meeting and CT took over as chair.

Schools – Pastoral links.

Fr MW had nothing to tell the meeting about St. Joseph's.

BB had met recently with the head at St. Benet's. They were delighted to be having mass in school on a regular basis and hope to have a memorial for Deacon Peter. They are waiting for both Ofsted and R.E. inspections.

Any other business.

Pauline Pestell volunteer to say prayers at the next meeting.

Next meeting – Sunday 10th December at 7p.m. in Presbytery.