

**St. Michael’s and St. Bernadette’s Parish Pastoral Council**

***Meeting Minutes***

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| **Meeting:** | 30 |
| **Date & Time:** | 4th July 2016 (7.30pm) |
| **Location:** | Lourdes Room, St. Bernadette’s |

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| **Attendees:** |  |
| Paula Browne (PB) | Alison Taylor (AT) |
| Christine Duffin (CD) Chair | Daniel To (DT) |
| Catherine Davies (CMD) | Maura Green(MG) Secretary |
| Father Chris Lough (FrC) | Mary Clerkin(MC) |
| Mark McLear (MM) | Alexandra Gilmore (AG) |
| Jane Reynolds (JR) | Jenni Byrne (JB) Secretary |
| Nicol Connaughton (NC) | Sue McAvady (SMc) Vice Chair |
| Tony Smith (TS) | Winifred Dunn (WD) |
| Andrew Nuttall (AN) |  |
| **Apologies** |  |
| John Mallon (JM) | Kerry Winter (KW) |
| Brian Connor (BC) |  |

**Minutes**

*1. Apologies for Absence*

Brian Connor John Mallon Kerry Winter

2. *Initial Prayers*

The opening prayer was led by MM.

*3. To receive feedback on the previous meeting – special reflection led by Sr.Catherine*

*Darby SND held on the 18th May 2016*

PB said it was a very spiritual and helpful. AG felt it was good to reflect together as

a group. It was felt to be a positive experience.

*4. Minutes of Meeting 29 held on the 11th April 2016*

The minutes of meeting 29 were considered and a few minor alterations were made and then they were passed. Hard copies of these minutes will now be placed in both church porches and a soft copy will be placed on the Parish website.

***Action: PPC Secretary to distribute hard and soft copies of approved minutes. (JB)***

*5. Refugee Crisis – Visit from Mark Wiggin CEO Salford Caritas*

Mark Wiggin gave a short presentation to explain the response of Caritas to the refugee crisis. As the government is bringing in 20,000 Syrian refugees and he talked about how to make some welcome in the Manchester area. He explained the significance of the Lampedusa cross which is made from pieces of a boat that was wrecked on 11 October, 2013 off the coast of Lampedusa when 311 Eritrean and Somali refugees were drowned en route from Libya to Europe. He made clear the difference between refugees and asylum seekers, refugees fear for their lives and are not safe in their own country whereas asylum seekers are applying for refugee status and have no public funding. In September 2015 Pope Francis asked every diocese to offer sanctuary to families fleeing from war and other crisis situations. Salford diocese held an awareness conference and **is working closely with partner charities** Revive and the Boaz Trust. (Revive accompanies and supports refugees and people seeking asylum living in Manchester and Salford. Boaz Trust serves destitute asylum seekers in Greater Manchester, providing accommodation, food and other essentials.)He outlined initiatives within the diocese - a mobile exhibition touring schools from September, two safe houses, networking with the police for trafficking and slavery, coordinating with other dioceses, Refugee week and St Monica’s Flixton sponsoring a Syrian family. He said a parish response could be – find out what is needed, decide how to help then appoint a small group to organise. Manchester has been allocated 500 families from Syria. They will need homes, finance, welfare, education and employment. Caritas can help with training and support.

Action: Outreach Group to continue to meet to discuss the parish response (see 6.3 below)

## 6. *Matters arising*

6.1 *Update on Parish Website –* FrC reported that the Parish now has a Facebook page linked to a Twitter account. There was really no need to email parishioners with newsletter as it was already available online. A meeting is planned for next Monday night to develop the web site and learn how to upload new items. Perhaps the group may take it in turns to upload new items.

***Action: Meeting to develop web site (FrC)***

6.2 *Crafty Church* – MC told the meeting that that the event on the 12th June had been very successful with 54 children attending, evenly split between the two churches. PB commented that it was very enjoyable and explained it was important to plan simple activities which were easy to prepare.

***Action: ……..***

6.3 *Jubilee Year Of Mercy*. FrC felt that planning for the vigil ran short of time and that it would now be better to plan for November when the new chaplaincy team at St. Monica’s could be involved – 11th/12th November is suggested date.

**Action: FrC to meet with new Chaplaincy group re vigil in November 11th/12th**

MC reported that the Asylum Seekers event on the 29th April was a great success and the group were considering tapping into other organisations. Felicity was going to ask for volunteers to help. There were lots of gifts and cakes with children fully involved in the event – feedback was very positive.

**Action: MC to email PPC when Outreach meetings planned**

PB suggested having an event for the end of the Year of Mercy – FrC mentioned that the family group had suggested a meal, but not confirmed as yet. He felt maybe the vigil could be the final event.

CD reminded the meeting that there is to be a Dance and Drama Evening at St Monica's on 19th October at 6.30pm, involving children from St Bernadette's, St Michael's and St Monica's. The theme of the evening is Mercy. Limited space means that only parents will be invited on the evening. She asked Fr Chris to make the opening prayer and introduction.

6.4 *Week of Guided Prayer.* FrC said there was still no reply but he had a contact with someone who could lead one – perhaps next year.

6.5 *Refugee Crisis.* See item 5.

6.6 *Promise for Lent*. Has been done.

6.7 *Plan for Advent Reflection*. PB reported that Sr Catherine can lead a reflection on the morning of Saturday, 3rd December.

**Action: PB to confirm date with Sr Catherine**

6.8 *Reorganisation of Parishes within the Diocese*. PB confirmed that a statement was sent to the Deanery. She also felt that we should respond to the Bishop with reference to Fr Andrew’s appointment.

**Action: CD and PB to work together to draft a letter to the bishop**

The PPC wishes to formally welcome Fr Andrew to the parish.

6.9 *Parish Pilgrimage to Schoenstatt Shrine.* FrC said it was a good day despite rain, about 64 took part, though not many young families. It would be good to have another pilgrimage – perhaps to a different venue. CMD felt that it was well organised. CD commented that it was a pity there were not more children – we need to think of more ways to engage them in the future. She suggested a letter be written to thank Schoenstatt community for their great hospitality.

**Action: Letter to thank Schoenstatt community and St Saviour's Parishioners for their hospitality (PB) (CD)**

7 *Bishop's pastoral letter - opportunities for prayer, opening of churches, exposition of*

*Blessed Sacrament.* FrC reminded the meeting that there is already Exposition at St. Bernadette’s at 11.00 – 12.00 on Saturdays. TS said that OLOG have people popping into church quite often – this may be because of its situation. FrC felt St Michael’s would be better placed for people to drop in. Security is an issue as there would need to be at least 2 parishioners present at all times. CD commented that parishioners need to be more informed about the significance of Exposition. FrC thought that perhaps St Bernadette’s could be open while the school is open e.g in the mornings/evenings when parents are dropping off/collecting children. TS asked if the ringing of the Angelus bell could be considered – perhaps in partnership with OLOG. CMD suggested that we need to know more. She commented about having more silence in church.

**Action: WD and TS to explore the possibility of Exposition on Friday mornings at St. Michael’s**

*8. Any new matters raised via suggestion boxes.* AT outlined a request she received for a charity fund raising event – PB suggested speaking to Richard Murphy. FrC passed around a letter from Caroline Brice concerning setting up a steering group to discuss problems and solutions concerning loneliness in the local community. CD suggested asking parishioners if there was anyone who would like to help.

**Action: Put request into parish newsletter (FrC)**

10. Date of Next Meeting - 15th August 2016

11. Closing Prayers