

## Summary Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council

### **The Precious Blood and All Souls, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

Present: Fr Michael Brandon (chairing), Deacon Paul Rabvukwa, , Barbara McGowan, Jean Surplice, John Corroon, Maura Mulcahy, Tony Thompson, Paul Riess,

Apologies: Charlie Mullen, Caroline Harrison (Chairman), Richard Walsh, Michael Tourville, John Duckett

Absent: Annie Greene , Irene Zikpi,

#### **1. Welcome and Prayer**

#### **2. Apologies and Review of minutes from November's meeting- minutes agreed**

#### **3. Review of Christmas – group discussion**

**Services:** - mulled wine well received after 'midnight' mass - suggested possibility of special refreshments after New Year's Day Sunday mass in 2017

- Attendance at 430pm mass was excellent, probably over 450 attended , so next year need 500 orders of service –suggested could probably do with a choir at the back
- music was very enjoyable

**Christmas Party:** - well attended by families – more tables required,

**Finance** – proceeds not known yet

- need to phone winners and/or group prizes together next year

**Thanks to everyone who contributed**

#### **4. Evangelisation – open discussion on how parish can achieve this**

- Father Michael proposed a list of questions to ask ourselves (to be attached) for discussion
- **What is evangelisation? Quotes**
- 'spreading the catholic gospel' to all faiths in different ways
- discussing the gospel with them to influence their opinion and that Journey in Faith course is definitely evangelisation
- 'proselytizing', which is trying to convert from one religion to another – is not evangelization
- evangelisation should lead people to mass

- work with First Communion parents is evangelisation and this fits with **'evangelisation by attraction'**
- **Are we religious salesmen?**
- we need to do more by 'attraction' than sales, but it will not be instant results, and need to have something in common with those that you are evangelising.
- we may have to accept that not every catholic will practice their faith 24/7, but we should still support them
- **What is the core message we want to get across?**
- embracing the love of God
- do you believe that God loves you?
- God is merciful
- a thirst for more from your Journey in Faith
- a love of God which inspires commitment to other people
- obligation to the 'needy' – practicing what you preach
- **Do we encourage our fellow parishioners in sharing their faith?**
- some parishioners do not feel welcome
- With some parishioners is a sense of obligation to attend mass and not necessarily to socialize
- when did we last have a social night out with parishioners? – we have not, so it could be a good idea
- suggested we need to engage more with the individual groups in the parish to have more of a community 'feel' through prayer and maybe need to re schedule weekday masses to be more accessible
- suggested we need training on bereavement counselling/ work to support local bereaved and lonely parishioners and also to put photographs of deceased on notice board
- we are having mass in November for all bereaved from previous year
- **Summary**
- We are doing a lot, but could do more and do it better – initially to concentrate on supporting group for young adults
- Aim to be more committed to CTEC as below
- Aim to arrange social event

**5. Year of Mercy – forthcoming events – discussed required actions**

**6. CTEC Updates – any updates, issues to raise – group discussion**

- Conclusion – work on 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> March in first instance and inviting CTEC

**7. Iqra - ? Confirm next meeting and topic of discussion**

- will approach by email to set date
- suggested topic of Adam and Eve

**8. AOB**

- Week of Prayer for Christian unity – 18<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> Jan – see below
- Suggestion of ‘Hardship Fund’ in the Parish, For example, for parishioners facing extreme hardship. Suggested maximum of £100 a year per parishioner

**9 . significant dates:**

- **Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Jan, 530pm – Year of Mercy ‘Life’ event**
- **18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Jan – Year of Prayer for Christian Unity**
- **Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan – Ecumenical Meal, St Barbara’s**
- **Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Jan- United service, 630pm, All souls**
- **6<sup>th</sup> Feb – Year of Mercy ‘Victims of Abuse’ event**
- **4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> March – 24 hours for the Lord –with school and CTEC – programme TBC**

**10. Close and prayer**

