

**MEETING 2 OF ST JOSEPH'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
TUESDAY 24 APRIL 2018 AT 7:00 PM IN THE CHURCH HALL**

1. Welcome, prayer/reflection and apologies

present: Billy Walker, Ewan Walker, Ann McCafferty, Tina Rebelo, Sheila Hay, John Tait (Vice Chair), Chris Dempsey, Angela Onochie-Okolo, Pauline Davies (chair) Maureen Bruce (secretary), Fr Ian Wilson OSA, Fr Sean Quinlan OSA, Fr Paul Graham (parish priest)
apologies: Bart Gocenia

Father Paul offered a prayer and reflection on Pope Francis' "*Evangelii Gaudium*"

Action - Maureen to distribute extract from Evangelii Gaudium to the PPC

2. Ground rules for successful and supportive discussion

Pauline invited the PPC to agree some ground rules to support their discussions as a group..
These are:

- we hold each other in respect
- we listen to what each person has to say without interruption
- we encourage everyone to contribute so that all voices can be heard
- we feel comfortable to ask for clarity and say if we haven't understood

3. Consideration of actions arising from the minute of the inaugural meeting on 19 March (papers - the draft constitution and mission statement)

The PPC discussed the draft constitution and Parish Mission Statement in detail and agreed some further changes to the draft constitution:

at 4.2 – replace elect with SELECT a chair to.... and replace select in all cases where it appears rather than elect

at 4.2 Members of the PPC are expected to serve for 3 years term of office

in future the parish priest will consider selecting a secretary for the PPC in addition to the parish council members whose specific role is to record the minutes and provide secretariat function to the PPC.

at 4.3 indicate that the PPC will support the parish priest to foster links with local Christian Communities

at 6.1 selection of members will take place every 3 yearsto a maximum of 6 consecutive years

at 6.2 delete this section

at 7.3 The PPC agenda will be posted on the church notice board and website prior to meetings. This will be notified in the parish bulletin and spare copies made available

at 7.7 Minutes to be shared with PPC within a week for agreement. The PPC will aim to share the finalised minutes with the parish within 2 weeks

at 8.1 correct typing error “the”

in discussion of the draft Mission statement, the PPC was keen to ensure that this places sufficient emphasis on action in our community and beyond. The PPC agreed this could be achieved by the following amendments to the mission statement:

We respond to the call of Christ by actively.....
Bullet point three – grow and act in faith

The PPC also agreed there should be an additional amendment to reflect the distinctive Augustinian approach in the parish. Father Ian agreed to consider a form of words to reflect this.

Action - Father Ian to provide Maureen with wording for the parish mission statement

Action - Maureen to update the constitution and mission statement to reflect all the amendments and share with the PPC

Action - PPC to agree the final version of the constitution and mission statement at their next meeting

4. Learning and ideas from Conference on Pope Francis

The PPC heard a report of Father Paul’s study visit at Villanova University. Fr Paul has posted this on the parish website. Those attending the conference received direct learning from advisers to Pope Francis. Father Paul referred to Pope Francis’ recently published document *Gaudete et Exsultate*, noting its emphasis on Ignation or Jesuit-style spirituality, encouraging every one to seek daily encounter with Christ in the scriptures and using this to discern Christ’s call to action for each of us on a daily basis. Father Paul will share a copy of his reflection with the parish council.

Action - Father Paul to send a copy of the extract from Evangelii Gaudium to Maureen for issue to the PPC

5. Review of parish celebration of Lent and Easter and any learning for next year

The PPC noted positive parishioner feedback. People had been noticing the lovely atmosphere and attention to detail in the liturgical celebrations. There had been good attendance at the services. There is an overall positive atmosphere, the parish feels more vibrant.

6. Planning for parish approach to engage parents and families during preparation for first holy communion

This is a wide-ranging subject and will require on-going consideration of the PPC.

First Communion is June 3. The PPC is enthusiastic to seek some simple engagement with the families of children preparing for first Holy Communion. The PPC noted a number of Polish families in this context. Outreach before June 3 might encourage families to return with their children after First Holy Communion. There was enthusiasm for sharing the inclusive and welcoming quality of parish life in St Joseph's.

Father Paul observed that First Communion preparation is taking place in the school but we don't seem to have a developed parish connection.

The PPC noted the responsibilities of Father Ian as chaplain to the school and his work there with the staff and pupils which can lead to a wider evangelisation over time. They noted the work under way building connections, for example, school services now taking place in the parish church.

The PPC agreed to action in the longer term - to return to this subject at a future meeting for more detailed discussion and planning, and in the shorter term - to consider a simple family gathering in the hall one Sunday morning before First Communion. Father Ian and Sheila offered to discuss this further with the two teachers involved

Action - Sheila and Father Ian to initiate discussion with the school with a view to responding to an invitation from the parish to meet families of children preparing for First Holy Communion one Sunday morning before 3 June.

Action - PPC to return to deeper discussion on outreach to families with children at the school at a future date

7. CitizensUK

A number of Catholic parishes are members of CitizensUK. This is a UK charity which supports local communities to tackle local social issues for example, welcoming immigrants, getting action on dampness in housing etc. The former head of CitizensUK has been in touch with Father Paul seeking sponsorship for a Syrian family. Father Paul shared leaflets from CitizensUK and asked whether the PPC is happy for Father Paul to explore this further. In discussion the PPC were interested to learn more and positive about an initial further exploration before making any final decision. They noted there is a financial commitment that would require further discussion and also that there is potential for wider collaboration with neighbouring churches. The PPC agreed that Father Paul should explore further.

Action - Father Paul to engage with CitizenUK and share his findings with the PPC at a future date

8. Request for support to parish in Kenya

A parishioner visiting Kenya is seeking support for a struggling parish priest there. Father Paul explained that the policy of the Augustinian Order is not to offer financial support direct to individuals but to support the Augustinian delegation in Kenya who make decisions on the distribution of financial support.

At the same time the parish is positive about supporting individual parishioners who wish to raise funds by undertaking personal fund-raising activities etc

Action: Father Paul and Pauline will respond to the parishioner to explain the policy situation and encourage the supportive work of this parishioner to continue.

9. Request to discuss support to young people

Ewan has been considering a potential young persons' agenda for the parish. in particular focussing on children moving into secondary school. He shared some initial thinking on initiatives the parish may wish to support for example:

monthly Taize or themed service for young people
junior RCIA, or alpha courses as well as social groups

This subject had also been raised for discussion at the PPC by a parishioner seeing this as a key matter of importance for the parish and noting the opportunities to engage more deeply with initiatives like Augustinian Youth.

The PPC agreed this is a significant matter for the parish and we should return to this in detail at a future date. Ewan offered to develop more detailed propositions in discussion with others to support the discussion. The PPC noted that success here will require support from others beyond the PPC.

Action - Ewan to engage with other interested people and lead development of propositions to support young people in the parish for future discussion at the PPC

10. Any other business

10.1 Parish signage - the PPC recorded thanks to Ewan Walker and Kenneth Clacher for their work on the design of the new church sign and liaison with the signwriters. Ewan is now following up to secure the professional advice that will be needed to get to the next stage when the sign will be fitted.

Action - Ewan to continue to engage on actions needed to fit the new parish sign

10.2 Use of projector and monitors in church – Sheila had initiated some work on this with Father Stefan previously and obtained quotes. Father Paul has also taken further advice. The PPC was invited to consider this as one piece of a wider project over the next 2 years that would take an overall view of what is needed for the church building and to connect this to a physical and spiritual regeneration of the parish ready for 2020 – to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Augustinians coming to St Joseph's. There is much more discussion and engagement with the parish to take place on this idea. Ewan and Father Paul offered to develop the idea further and bring this back to the PPC for discussion.

Action - Ewan and Father Paul to develop further thinking on St Joseph's 2020 Project

10.3 Safeguarding – The diocese is launching a new policy accepted by the Bishops Conference “In God’s Name” on 25 May. This will be sent to all parishes with information on training. Maureen is clarifying the policy on recording volunteers with the Diocese.

Action - Maureen to share information from the Safeguarding Office on recording volunteers.

10.4 Climate Change - Pauline shared her experience from a gathering at Scottish Parliament with other faith groups. SCIAF has produced notes on Pope Francis’ document *Laudato Si, “Caring for our Common Home”*. She is keen to work with others to consider what the parish can do to contribute to this agenda in conjunction with the forthcoming Climate Change Bill. There is potential to connect with the school and explore whether pupils might wish to share what they are doing on this subject with the parish. The PPC agreed

Action - Pauline to develop further thoughts on a potential parish response to climate change

10.5 Changes to some regular parish events - Father Paul noted the pensioners outing was to be on a Saturday. Mass for the Sick and a general Mass of Anointing had also been moved to a Saturday. The PPC discussed the implications of this change on a practical and pastoral level. There were advantages and disadvantages. For example, practical aspects of supporting the event in the hall on a Saturday separate from Sunday Mass and the need to make wider connections to ensure all volunteers have sufficient time to organise their contributions such as transportation and personal assistance to those attending as well as setting up the hall, catering and clearing up afterwards. There is a wish to sustain the best possible connections between people coming to mass for the sick with their parish community and opportunities for the wider parish to demonstrate its inclusive values. The PPC agreed to have these events on a Saturday this year and then evaluate before taking a further decision on this in good time for next year.

Action - PPC to evaluate the changes to Mass for the Sick and discuss the programme of regular parish events to enable practical planning and volunteer support in good time as well as opportunities for pastoral outreach and engagement.

11. Dates of next meetings

June 12 - 7pm in the church hall

Sept 4 - 7pm in the church hall

12. Concluding prayer

led by Father Paul.

Actions agreed by the PPC on 24 April 2018

Action 1 - Maureen to distribute extract from *Evangelii Gaudium* to the PPC

Action 2 - Father Ian to provide Maureen with wording for the parish mission statement

Action 3 - Maureen to update the constitution and mission statement to reflect all the amendments and share with the PPC

Action 4 - PPC to agree the final version of the constitution and mission statement at their next meeting

Action 5 - Father Paul to send a copy of the extract from *Evangelii Gaudium* to Maureen for issue to the PPC

Action 6 - Sheila and Father Ian to initiate discussion with the school with a view to responding to an invitation from the parish to meet families of children preparing for First Holy Communion one Sunday morning before 3 June.

Action 7 - PPC to return to deeper discussion on outreach to families with children at the school at a future date

Action 8 - Father Paul to engage with CitizenUK and share his findings with the PPC at a future date

Action 9 - Father Paul and Pauline will respond to the parishioner to explain the policy situation and encourage the supportive work of this parishioner to continue.

Action 10 - Ewan to engage with other interested people and lead development of propositions to support young people in the parish for future discussion at the PPC

Action 11 - Ewan to continue to engage on actions needed to fit the new parish sign

Action 12 - Ewan and Father Paul to develop further thinking on St Joseph's 2020 Project

Action 13 - Maureen to share information from the Safeguarding Office on recording volunteers.

Action 14 - Pauline to develop further thoughts on a potential parish response to climate change

Action 15 - PPC to evaluate the changes to Mass for the Sick and discuss the programme of regular parish events to enable practical planning and volunteer support in good time as well as opportunities for pastoral outreach and engagement.