

## **St. Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 7.30pm at Our Lady's Church**

**In attendance:** Sue Finch, John Hannacher, Vivianne Gattoc, Fr. Roy Karakkattu, Deirdre Lay, Tina Smith, Finbarr O'Donoghue, Peter Kirk, Debbie Rogers

**Apologies:** Vince Smith, David Curtis

1. **Prayer & Welcome:** John welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced with a prayer from Fr. Roy.
2. **The Minutes** of the last meeting, held 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023, were approved unanimously, having been proposed by Susan Finch and seconded by Peter Kirk.
3. **4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary.**

#### **4.1 Finance – Sue Finch**

Sue mentioned that the Finance meeting is to follow tomorrow (5<sup>th</sup> December) where more details will be reported.

We currently have £177,297 in the Diocesan account which is an increase of almost £10,000 from June.

The new Cleaners – increase in cost of £100 per month.

The new photocopier is now in place at St. Aidan's this was funded from restricted funds and cost £3,000.

Q3 – payments for the Presbytery refurbishment will be presented this quarter.

#### **4.2 Liturgy – Tina Smith**

Tina gave an update in Vince's absence.

All the December hymns have been chosen and Heather Clancy is preparing the Nativity. Brian Gallagher will be doing reflections, before midnight mass, as in previous years. There will be a joint mass at St Aidan's at 10.30am on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> for both parishes. Four Eucharistic Ministers are required, and it was confirmed that we have enough Chalices.

Tina reported that the Clavinova has been cleaned and serviced.

#### **4.3 Formation**

There are 27 candidates on the Confirmation Programme and the First Holy Communion is a combined programme for Our Lady's and St. Aidan's. There are 13 candidates in total.

#### **4.4 Social & Cultural – Deirdre Lay**

The Parish Christmas Lunch is on 17<sup>th</sup> December and the Grand draw will be held then. To date £650 has been received for the draw.

#### **4.5 Maintenance – Finbarr O'Donoghue**

The external noticeboard on the White Lion Road is starting to look tatty and is not easy to see from the main road. A parishioner will arrange repairs by installing a metal frame. Fr. Roy asked if it could possibly be brought nearer the road? It is not clear whether this will be possible as we don't own the land but Finbarr and John to investigate this and with Maz the possibility of lighting it. Fr. Roy said he was happy for the noticeboard to be illuminated.

Fr. Roy mentioned the email from the Diocese about RAAC and that they are asking for photographs to be sent of any buildings which may be of concern. Debbie to forward the email to Finbarr and John so that they can ascertain what might be required. Finbarr to take photographs of the building and send them to the Diocese.

Recommendations have been received following the Fire and Electrical Safety testing and PAT report. Debbie to forward these to John and Finbarr to query with Maz. John to identify the date of the next Quinquennial.

#### **4.6 Ecumenical – Vivianne Gattoc**

Carols on the Green in Little Chalfont will be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

A carol service will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> December at The Red lion pub in Chenies village organised by the Baptist Church.

Vivianne advised Fr. Roy that the next Ecumenical meeting is on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024, 1.30pm at the Baptist Church in Chenies village.

#### **4.7 Youth – David Curtis**

Fr. Roy and Deirdre gave an update in David's absence.

The numbers have dropped considerably for the Youth meetings at Restore Hope. An email has been sent from Fr. Roy requesting parents to advise what evenings work best for their children so that we can find a convenient evening that could work to enable the sessions at Restore Hope to continue. Otherwise, it was noted that, whilst a wonderful opportunity it is expensive and not worth continuing if the numbers remain low.

The meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December has been cancelled and the Christmas social on 14<sup>th</sup> December will go ahead, as planned, as the last session this year. The Ukrainian Group will not be attending or going forward. Proceeds from the Raffle (grand draw taking place on the 17<sup>th</sup> December) is for the Youth of our parish.

#### **4.8 Pastoral Area Council – Peter Kirk**

A meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> November at St. Teresa's, Beaconsfield and was attended by Joanna Hale and Peter Kirk. Five meeting dates were set for PAC meetings in 2024. An extra meeting will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023, to be attended by Bishop David marking the conclusion of his parish visits.

The Pastoral Area Christmas Mass booklet has been received and will be available for the Masses this weekend. For next year's booklet, parishes have been asked to submit photos that may be suitable for the front cover.

Other Pastoral Area events are underway (e.g. Emmaus – Opening the Scriptures) and full details will be sent to parishes.

There is a Catholic Parish Summit in Harrogate from 12th -14th June 2024 with the title "Where is your parish going?" All parishes are invited to be a part of the process, stepping into a decade of missionary renewal.

Peter's Pastoral Area report is attached to these minutes.

#### **5. Any Other Business**

Fr. Roy will be publishing all the Christmas Mass times in this weekend's newsletter.

The crib will be put up 23/24<sup>th</sup> December.

It was mentioned about doing an appeal for the situation in Israel and it was suggested by Sue that this could be for the 'Christian Churches in Israel'. Fr. Roy said this would need to be in the New Year – Jan/Feb.

John suggested having an appeal for new Eucharistic Ministers and Readers after Christmas and before Easter. It was noted that usually at Easter there is a renewal for the Eucharistic Ministers who wish to continue.

Tina mentioned the Little Chalfont noticeboard and that perhaps we include our Newsletter in it? Tina to speak with Sheelagh Morrison about this as she has the key.

#### **6. Next Meeting Dates**

Provisional dates for 2024:

18<sup>th</sup> March, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> September & 2<sup>nd</sup> December

John to advise Joe Tavernier of the dates to ensure they don't clash with any of Our Lady's meetings in 2024.

#### **7. Fr Roy closed the meeting with a prayer**

## **South Bucks Pastoral Area Council (PAC)**

### **Report on recent activities**

**for**

### **The Parish Pastoral Council of St Aidan's**

- A meeting took place on 20<sup>th</sup> November at St Teresa's, Beaconsfield, attended by Joanna Hale and Peter Kirk.

- **Meeting Dates**

Five meeting dates were set for PAC meetings in 2024, to take place on Mondays or Tuesday evenings, initially in Beaconsfield.

An extra meeting will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023, to be attended by The Bishop marking the conclusion of His parish visits.

- **Advent and Christmas 2023**

Copies of the agreed PA Christmas Booklet are to be distributed shortly.

For next year's Booklet, parishes are asked to submit photos that may be suitable for the front cover.

- **Diocesan Assembly "Pilgrims of Hope" – Update**

The Bishop's initial comments can be summarised as follows:-

- 1) Creation of Vicariate for Pastoral Development.
- 2) Review of key decision-making bodies, including Chapter, Trustees, Council of Priests, Council of Deacons, Senior Leadership Team, so that they are as transparent and accountable as possible.
- 3) Creation of Diocesan Pastoral Council with clear sense of purpose and responsibility.
- 4) Exploring ways to bring young people's voices into our conversations.
- 5) Develop a shared understanding of and formation for servant leadership, for all clergy and laity in leadership roles, including pastoral council chairs, and those entering senior leadership positions.
- 6) Promotion of women's ministry and spirituality including supporting women's vocation and exploring the new ministries of lector and acolyte.
- 7) More support for priests.

What's Next:

- Programmes for youth, outreach to the marginalized, supporting women's ministry.
- Support for clergy focusing on building trust.

- Creation of Diocesan Pastoral Council.
- New 'synodal/mission' parish council accompaniment programme.
- Ministry of listening.
- Local discernment process – starting in Aylesbury.
- All aimed at supporting joy-filled, mission-focused communities.
- Not a comprehensive list – where will the Holy Spirit lead next?

- **PA Events**

Various events are underway (e.g Emmaus – Opening the Scriptures) or planned and full details will be sent to parishes for communicating to parishioners.

There is a Catholic Parish Summit in Harrogate from 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June 2024 with the title **“Where is your parish going?”** All parishes are invited to be a part of the process, stepping in to a decade of missionary renewal.

Peter Kirk

4<sup>th</sup> December 2023