

# South Bucks Area Pastoral Council Meeting - Notes

## Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026 – 7.30 pm at St Teresa’s, Beaconsfield

1.	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</b>	ACTION
	<p>Joan welcomed everyone to the meeting. She hoped everyone had had a blessed and prayerful Easter.</p> <p>Fr Sean reported that Canon John Udris is recovering well from his heart problem and is undergoing rehabilitation. He has cancelled all engagements, at least until September.</p> <p>Fr Jerome’s younger brother, Christopher, has been killed in a car accident in Nigeria. Also, Fr Kamil had heard that his father, Marek, had died very suddenly in Poland.</p> <p>Fr Sean asked that we please keep Canon John, Fr Jerome and Fr Kamil and their families in our prayers at this difficult time.</p>	ALL
2.	<b>PRAYER AND REFLECTION</b>	
	Peter Kirk and Fr Roy led the meeting in prayer, starting with a prayer to St Aidan and reflecting on the gospel of the day.	
3.	<b>CARERS BUCKS</b>	
	Fr Sean reported that Carers Bucks are now under new management. Rahat was therefore unable to attend our meeting tonight to talk about the work of Carers Bucks.	
4.	<b>PASTORAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS</b>	
	<b>4.1</b> <b>Schedule of meetings for 2026</b>	
	Dates for forthcoming meetings in 2026 and prayer leads are as follows:	
	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> September                      Immaculate Heart of Mary	
	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November                      John Henry Newman	
	<b>4.2</b> <b>Clergy Meeting</b>	
	<p>Fr Sean reported that, at their last clergy meeting, they had reflected on the Easter celebrations that had been held.</p> <p>Last week, there was a 24 hours away day held for the priests of our diocese at Highgate House. Their topic for discussion had been Education. Within our pastoral area St Peter’s Catholic School in Marlow will be closing in 2027.</p> <p>Maria and Alex Heath had given a presentation on Catechesis in our parishes and how the diocese can support parishes. They had also talked about helping people be confident talking about their faith. They are developing a course to help people with this.</p> <p>Pauline Cuddihy Director of Education in the Diocese, and the Strategic leads of our two trusts, Mark McLaughlin (St Thomas) and Catherine Burnham (Our Lady Immaculate) had given excellent presentations on education. Their focus had been on how we could better promote our Catholic schools and how we could encourage our parents to appreciate the benefits of their children receiving a Catholic education.</p> <p>Strengthening the links between our Catholic schools and our Catholic churches is important. Parents are prioritising school performance rather than the benefits of their children receiving a Catholic education. It was noted that Catholic children in Beaconsfield rarely attend St Joseph’s school as they used to. Those that did attend in previous years still have a strong connection with each other.</p>	

	<p>It's important to make the link between social justice and knowing Christ.</p> <p>The priests had also received encouragement to consider their own personal and human development.</p> <p>It was noted that seminarian training has changed. Seminarians now do two years on philosophy, three years on theology, and then take a break from the seminary to gain experience working in parishes and interacting with people, looking at the human, pastoral, spiritual, and academic aspects of priestly ministry.</p> <p>Chrisi Colaco will be ordained as a priest at the Cathedral on Saturday 20 June. Ollie will hopefully be ordained a Deacon next year. Renver will be transferring to the Venerable English College in Rome for his theology study.</p>	
<b>4.3</b>	<b>Jubilarian Mass</b>	
	<p>There will be no Diocesan Mass for Jubilarians this year.</p> <p>Both Fr Bob and Fr James celebrate 25 years of priesthood this year. Fr James will celebrate his Jubilee on 7<sup>th</sup> July with Mass at 7.30 pm at St Augustine's. He will be inviting the clergy to his Jubilee Mass. Fr Sean will be preaching. Fr Bob's Jubilee is on 16<sup>th</sup> July, but he will be away at that time.</p> <p>Fr Sean proposed that we celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving for their priestly ministry on <b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 9.30 am</b> at St Teresa's, between their two anniversaries. Refreshments will be available after Mass.</p>	<p><b>Clergy</b></p> <p><b>Fr Sean/ Maria Cox</b></p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>REVIEW OF RECENT ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>The Community of Communities Day</b>	
	<p>The day had exceeded all expectations. People wanted to participate. There had been music, testimonials, and celebrations, with a wide variety of food to share. The church had been full of emblems from various countries. Deacon Brent will email a few photographs to Christine to attach them to the minutes.</p> <p>It was agreed that this was an event well worth repeating next year and it was proposed to hold this on <b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2027</b> (the Saturday immediately prior to Pentecost). Fr Sean will check the availability of their church and facilities for that day. It is hoped that we can establish a culture of working as a pastoral area to organise and support such events.</p> <p>Maria was thanked for taking on the majority of the work to organise such a successful initiative.</p>	<p><b>Fr Sean ALL</b></p>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Mass for Victims and Survivors of Abuse</b>	
	<p>The Mass for victims of abuse had been celebrated on the National Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse. There had been a small gathering of people attending, but it was felt that this demonstrated a good witness of our caring for victims of abuse. Fr Sean had celebrated the Mass with Deacon Peter giving the homily. It was agreed that this should become an annual event.</p> <p>Regrettably, the materials from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales had been issued far too late to be of use on the day, with the prayer cards arriving the</p>	

	<p>day after the Mass. Deacon Peter had thus had to prepare his own material. He has already provided feedback to the Diocese on this but was asked to reinforce to the Diocese, on behalf of the PAC, the importance of providing materials well ahead of any event so that events could be advertised in good time.</p> <p>Suggestions to improve the occasion next year were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Issue specific invitations to the PSRs and encourage them to attend.</li> <li>ii. Try and form a joint choir across the pastoral area to sing at the Mass</li> <li>iii. Fr Sean suggested that maybe another priest from the pastoral area might like to be the principal celebrant next year.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Dcn Peter</b></p> <p><b>Fr Sean</b> <b>ALL</b></p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>EMMAUS SERIES</b>	
	<p>The Emmaus Core team met recently to discuss the way forward with the programme now that Fr Jerome is leaving our pastoral area.</p> <p>Attendance at the talks has dropped considerably, both in person and those following online, on the evening. The team proposed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Complete the 2026 talks as scheduled.</li> <li>ii. Thereafter, take a break from the current format to review the way forward.</li> <li>iii. Invite new people to the core team - Christine will be stepping down from the administrative role as next year she will be supporting the Called and Equipped programme in the Diocese.</li> <li>iv. Appoint a new lead and administrator for the group. Deacon Peter and Deacon Brent had been proposed as joint leads by Fr Jerome but they need time to consider this.</li> <li>v. We have a wealth of valuable talks, which can be accessed on our Emmaus website and used by parishes at any time. <a href="#">Click here for Emmaus website.</a></li> <li>vi. Christine will prepare a list of talks which are available.</li> <li>vii. Consider recording shorter sessions for YouTube/social media channels.</li> <li>viii. The core team will meet on 13<sup>th</sup> October and bring a proposal to our November meeting.</li> <li>ix. Regrettably, the July talk has been cancelled, as Fr Jerome is now unable to stand in for Canon John Udris.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Dcn Peter/</b> <b>Dcn Brent</b></p> <p><b>Christine</b></p> <p><b>Nov</b> <b>Agenda</b></p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>ADORATION/ADOREMUS 2026</b>	
	<p>No one has been appointed by the Diocese to take on the coordinating role from Canon John for Adoremus 2026.</p> <p>The tickets for Adoremus would be sent to Canon John, and Deacon Kevin would be asked to distribute these. Each Diocese will be allocated 50 tickets to distribute to Catholic organisations caring for the vulnerable eg SVP, Cafod representatives.</p> <p>We discussed the possibility of arranging Eucharistic Adoration in our parishes over that weekend. Fr Sean proposed that we hold a Eucharistic procession for the pastoral area, possibly involving our First Communion children. This had been done in Luton and had been a great witness to the local community.</p> <p>The programme for Adoremus 2026 can be found at <a href="http://www.cbew.org.uk/Adoremus">www.cbew.org.uk/Adoremus</a>. The service from Westminster Cathedral will be livestreamed.</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>SAFEGUARDING</b>	
	<p><b>Safeguarding Day for Clergy:</b> The day held at St Teresa's went well. Two further days are planned for this year; one in Leighton Buzzard and one at Northampton Cathedral Centre. All priests must complete their safeguarding training for 2026.</p>	<b>Priests</b>

	<p>There has been a new focus on considering the abuse of adults. The new phrase now being used is “Adults at Risk” where they consider all aspects of how an adult can be at risk, not just from sexual abuse, but also vulnerable in areas such as finance, accommodation, etc.</p> <p>Tina Welford has been appointed as the new chair of the Diocesan Advisory Board for Safeguarding.</p> <p>The Ministry of Listening and Accompaniment is being developed with support from Durham University.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING ACTIONS - FOLLOW UP OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA</b>	
	<b>8.1 Day for Catechists and Liturgists</b>	
	It had not been possible to arrange this within a suitable timeframe. This will be reconsidered at a later date.	<b>ALL</b>
	<b>8.2 Youth Worker</b>	
	Fr Roy reported that Deacon David Curitis had said that they had identified a person within our area to interview. They had recently retired and were looking for a new role. This is still under discussion among the cluster parishes that they would serve.	<b>Fr Roy</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>ROUND TABLE</b>	
	<b>9.1 Papal Letter - Magnifica Humanitas</b>	
	Fr John McGowan will be hosting six sessions on Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June, 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 July to explore Pope Leo’s first encyclical letter, Magnifica Humanitas. These will be held at St Joseph’s Parish in the First Committee Room. All are welcome. Joan will send a note to the parish offices for newsletters.	<b>ALL Joan</b>
	<b>9.2 Fr Eamon Mulachy</b>	
	Fr Sean said that Fr Eamon Mulachy - Holy Ghost Father - had given an excellent talk to the priests of our diocese on “The Radical Jesus - Encountering the Jesus in the Gospels”. He has invited him to give a talk in our pastoral area on <b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b> . He asked if we might be able to use Immaculate Heart of Mary as the venue for this. Fr Mirek and Deacon Peter will check the availability of their facilities for that day. It would be good if we could have some pastoral workshop time on how we can make this happen in our parishes.	<b>Fr Sean  Fr Mirek Dcn Peter ALL</b>
	<b>9.3 Review of PAC</b>	
	<p>Our pastoral area had now been in existence for three years. We should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The role of the PAC.</li> <li>ii. How do we act as ambassadors in our parishes for our PAC.</li> <li>iii. Should we refresh our membership?</li> <li>iv. What should be our mission going forward?</li> </ul> <p>In addition, we should consider how we can prepare for the discernment process, which will happen at some stage in our pastoral area. We will need people in this group who will look at the wider picture.</p> <p>It would be good to have a day for the PAC to discuss the way forward and either Avril or Alex might be able to facilitate the day.</p>	<b>ALL</b>

		<p>The new Deans have recently been appointed, but some are yet to appoint the Chairs for their PACs.</p> <p>We need to create awareness of the dates of our patronal feast days so that we can pray for each of our parishes at that time.</p> <p>Fr Sean suggested that the Exec team should have a meeting soon to discuss these ongoing topics.</p>	
	<b>9.4</b>	<b>National Mass for Altar Servers</b>	
		The National Mass for the Guild of St Stephen is this year at Westminster Cathedral on <b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b> . This would be an ideal opportunity for our altar servers to attend as a group.	<b>ALL</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Wrap-Up and Closing Prayer</b>		
		<p>Joan thanked everyone for attending. She asked that we please keep Canon John, Fr Kamil and Fr Jerome in our prayers during these difficult times.</p> <p>Fr John said he will be leaving the area in July to move to Kensington. He thanked everyone for their commitment to the PAC. He had been impressed with the energy and growth of the group since he was last in the pastoral area. Fr John was thanked for his support for the pastoral area council and we wish him well in his new role.</p> <p>Fr Sean closed the meeting with a prayer and blessing.</p>	ALL

#### ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES

Parish	Church/es and Schools	Attendees	Present
Great Missenden	Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church	Fr Mirek Misiura Deacon Peter Collins Tony King	Yes Yes Yes
Chesham Bois	Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic Church	Fr Roy Karakkattu Margaret van Duyvenbode Joanna Hale (Exec) Bridget Harvey	Yes Apologies Yes Yes
Little Chalfont	St Aidan's Catholic Church	Peter Kirk	Yes
High Wycombe	St Augustine's Catholic Church	Fr Jonathan Hill Fr James Evans Deacon Brin Dunsire Raheel Nadeem	Apologies Yes Apologies Apologies
High Wycombe	Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church St John Henry Newman	Deacon Paul Priestley Maria Plummer	Apologies Yes
Chesham	St Columba's Catholic Church	Fr Mirek Misiuria Deacon Gerard Felix (Exec) Lewis Canning	Yes Apologies Yes
Bourne End	St Dunstan's Catholic Church	Deacon Brent Adonis Jeff Wellington	Yes Yes
Gerrards Cross	St Joseph's Catholic Church The Most Holy Name Catholic Church	Joan Barham (Chair) Christine Cornwell (Secretary) Fr John McGowan OCD Fr Bob Davies OCD Fr Jerome Ituah OCD Fr Theophilus Nyamali OCD	Yes Yes Yes Yes Apologies Yes

		Fr Deepu Daniel OCD	Apologies
Marlow	St Peter's Catholic Church	Canon John Udris Deacon Kevin Ryan Marie Lou Stephenson	Apologies Yes Yes
Beaconsfield	St Teresa's Catholic Church	Mgr Seán Healy (Dean) Fr Kamil Kawiski Maria Cox	Yes Apologies Yes