

# MINUTES

**Maidstone South Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**Venue: Presbytery (next to Holy Family Church)**  
**Date & Time: Wednesday 11th July 2012 @ 7:30pm**

| <u>Committee</u>                      | <u>Name</u>             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Parish Priest                         | Rev. Roy Tablizo        |
| School Rep.                           | Marie Betts             |
| Finance Council Rep.                  | Awaits                  |
| Secretary                             | Chris Sloan             |
| Denary Rep.                           | Peggy Arnold            |
| Safeguarding Rep. (Holy Family)       | Bernadette Spence       |
| Safeguarding Rep. (St Thomas)         | Pauline Wilmot          |
| St Thomas                             | Terry Johnson           |
| Missions & Overseas Development       | Ann Green               |
| Missions & Overseas Development       | Mary Holt-<br>Goldsmith |
| Maintenance (electrics)               | Joseph DeSouza          |
| Maintenance (gardening)               | Bill Green              |
| Social & Fund Raising                 | Mary Lynn               |
| Deputy Social & Fund Raising          | Bernadette Spence       |
| Liturgy                               | Tony Menpes             |
| Sacramental Preparation (Holy Family) | Vacant                  |

|                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Sacramental Preparation (St Thomas) | Pauline Wilmot   |
| Evangelisation & Ecumenism          | Hilary Kitchen   |
| Deputy Evangelisation & Ecumenism   | Margarita Clarke |
| Communications & Welfare            | Dave Arnold      |
| Deputy Communications & Welfare     | Chris Sloan      |

## **Opening Prayer**

### **Apologies**

- Nicki Knight
- Marie Betts

### **Minutes of previous Parish Council Meeting**

Previously circulated.

### **Matters arising**

Nicki Knight's absence from that meeting to be added to the Minutes.

Minutes approved.

### **President's Report**

Fr Roy said he is happy with the progress with Hall and Church. He is hopeful numbers coming to Church will improve.

There was a vote of Thanks to Fr Roy's Father who has done so much to improve the look of the outside of the Church. It is truly looking wonderful.

### **Chair's Report**

Dave Arnold (DA) said that the proposed talks to be given by him at each Mass have not taken place yet. This will be covered in the Finance report.

Nothing further to report.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **School Rep.**

Fr Roy gave a brief update. Tony Menphes said that whole method by which the Governors go about their business has changed. There are now three main committees: Strategy, Resources, and Schoolwork. They set out the program within their area. There are therefore not so many sub-committees.

Since the school has had its OFSTED it has made some improvement. However, it is not going to be quick.

The Secretary – Chris Sloan - asked about the inspection by the Diocese. Tony Menphes said they were reasonably happy with how that went. This took place about two (2) months ago.

### **Denary Rep.**

Peggy Arnold said that the meeting last night. It was not very well attended but very successful. It was decided that Holy Family will host the Confirmation in October.

The Year of Faith is coming up; a small steering committee has been set up. Several speakers are being sought to give talks, etc during this year.

The Mass of the Sick held at Aylesford in May was discussed at the Deanery Meeting. It was felt that maybe the date was not a good choice. However, it was reasonably well attended. Peggy suggested that attended this Mass should be recommended by us for people to attend. It was a very good and powerful experience for those that attended. It can be a very uplifting experience.

Following the success of the Catechist course it was discussed re. organising an informal day to exchange ideas, etc

### **Child Protection (Holy Family & St Thomas)**

Pauline Wilmot stated there is nothing to report from St Thomas.

Bernadette Spence stated that in Holy Family one person is going through the Safeguarding process. They are a new Catechist for the Children's Liturgy.

### **St Thomas Rep.**

Terry Johnson said there are two First Holy Communicant candidates. All is going well at the Church. It is well supported by local Families and beyond. Major changes are that St Thomas now counts its collection and bank it locally. This is running very smoothly especially with Gift Aid.

Peggy Arnold asked if there is a large congregation at St Thomas? Terry Johnson said that at Sunday Mass the Church is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full – about 50 to 60 people. There is a good cross section of society and ages.

Terry Johnson was asked if there is still a Latin Mass in the Extraordinary Form. He confirmed there was. It was agreed it would be useful if it was advertised.

### **Missions & Overseas Development**

Mary Holt-Goldsmith said that the new CAFOD bank account has been opened. So the issues previously discussed have all been sorted out. There is some money they would like to spend on providing water for a village. This could possibly be put out for discussion? Water is one of CAFODS' main focuses.

Generally, all is quite quiet at the moment.

### **Maintenance**

DA said that this would be covered under the Finance heading.

### **Social & Fund Raising**

DA said that this would be covered under the Finance heading.

### **Liturgy**

Tony Menpes said that all the Easter Services went well. The Liturgy runs itself as does the Banner Group and the Choir.

Fr Roy needs more volunteers to be Readers and Eucharist Ministers.

Tony Menpes said that the rota for Readers on a Saturday is completed by Laura Harstedt as is the Eucharistic Ministers rota.

Tony Menpes said that we have sufficient Minister if they turn up when they are supposed to. David Arnold said that the same thing happens with the Reading rota for a Sunday. There are a few who have stated they are not able to be on the rota any more.

David Arnold asked whether we have many young Eucharistic ministers? He observed it would be nice if this was a consideration.

Tony Menpes concluded there are sufficient Eucharistic ministers.

### **Action: More readers required at Holy Family.**

Fr Roy said he feels that the Parish is too dependent on a few. Maybe this needs to be resolved? It was agreed we need some younger people in support roles.

There was a discussion re. who opens up the Church? John Duffy said that there used to be a rota.

Next there was a discussion re. hymns sung on a Sunday. Tony Mephes said he has raised this as an issue but there is a difference of view. It was said we need a good choice of hymns we know. John Duffy said we need some hymns to Our Lady.

Tony Mephes said we have no organist at present. This is still a problem. Ray Sweeney pointed out that Cranbook hire and organist and maybe this is something we should explore. He said we can afford an organist if we can find one. Ray Sweeney suggested that maybe we could possibly put out an advert. The organist at St Martin's was mentioned as a possible candidate.

Peggy Arnold raised the question if a Mass for the dead. She said she had discussed this with John Roberts (Deacon), namely what about a Mass specifically for those who have lost loved one? She asked whether a date could be ring fenced in November for this?

### **Sacramental Preparation (Holy Family & St Thomas)**

Nicki Knight had emailed a report. This was read by the Secretary - Chris Sloan:

*Following the Deanery Catechism course hosted by Holy Family in May, I invited our Parish Catechists to a meeting. I am waiting for the Minutes of this meeting. However, we discussed each of the sacraments and current arrangements within the parish. The group will meet again September 19th.*

*We have just completed this year's Holy Communion programme which saw eight (8) children make their First Holy Communion at Holy family. The Going Forth Mass two weeks later was followed by the Parish Family Day. This was well supported and thanks to those who helped with the BBQ. Unfortunately the rain prevented the annual rounders match!*

*We have started the Confirmation programme. We have five candidates meeting for sessions on a Tuesday evening. The Confirmation Mass is a Deanery event which we hope to host at Holy Family at 3pm on October 14th.*

*We are due to meet in the Summer to discuss changing the Holy Communion schedule, starting the programme before Christmas and celebrating the First Holy Communion Mass before Father's Day.*

*My thanks go to all those who support the sacramental preparation of our young people*

Confirmation - Fr Roy said that he hoped that a Confirmation course will start in May.

RCIA - Fr Roy said he got a call yesterday. Chris Sloan said there has been a weekly advert in the newsletter and if there were any Candidates the process would begin in September.

Baptism - Fr Roy said he would like a team to assist him with Sacramental preparation for Baptism. He said he would be looking for two or three people; with a commitment of about one night a month.

Mary Lynn asked Fr Roy how much notice do you have re. people seeking Baptism? Fr Roy said usually a month. Fr Roy said he felt that instruction is very important for Baptism.

DA said that at West Malling all the 'jobs' were being done by the Parish Priest and the rest by very few people. They devised a program called donate eight and highlighted jobs that needed done. Based on this DA said that if everybody in the Parish were prepared to donate eight (8) hours we would be able to get a great deal done; we need to spread the load. Mary Lynn pointed out that often people are just waiting to be asked.

## **Finance**

A full report was provided by those involved in the Parish finances and Maintenance. A breakdown of Parish accounts will be published at the end of the Finance Year.

## **Social**

Mary Lynn said that a Parish walk is planned for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2012. This will start at Teston. We will walk to Wateringbury and back, after which we can all have a packed lunch together.

DA said he is proposing another "Gently into Christmas" evening. This is a work in progress.

## **Evangelisation & Ecumenism**

Fr Roy mentioned the Year of Faith that will begin towards the end of the Year. He said that there is a lot of material coming out in relation to this. He said lots of Diocese have created their own websites specifically for this Year.

Fr Roy suggested that we have a meeting specifically to discuss / plan for the Year of Faith. In our Deanery four talks are being planned after which there will be informal discussions. Fr Roy said that we need to explore this subject further.

Terry Johnson mentioned that there is a Churches Together in Headcorn. They have a day when all the Churches will be opened.

Peggy Arnold mentioned about reaching out. One suggestion was to those who are dropping off children at our Primary school every morning.

## **Communications & Welfare**

DA talked about the list of the sick. He said that he had done a bit of work on this.

RS enquired about Pat Hammond and whether Pat was still sick as nobody seems to know?

There followed a discussion about the sick list. DA said that the Sick List issue needs to be resolved. We need contact numbers so that the sick can be contacted.

Margarita Clarke pointed out that we also need to know if somebody needs / would like to receive the Sacraments. She suggested that Fr Roy may wish to ask this from the Sanctuary as we are not sure who these people are.

## **Youth Ministry**

There was no update.

## **Parish Census**

Chris Sloan pointed and a briefly explained the various electronic options that might be available. It was also pointed out that there is the existing data and it would be a case of just bringing that up to date.

Mary Lynn suggested that both options are explored / undertaken in parallel.

Tony Mephes stated that Daphne Newman is still shown as the Liturgy lead on the website. Chris Sloan said he will change it straight away.

### **Correspondence**

Chris Sloan stated that there was nothing of note.

### **A.O.B.**

Chris Sloan thanked Mary Lynn for completing the Minutes of the last meeting in his absence.

Margarita Clarke pointed out how nice it is welcoming people at Mass as it makes them feel included. Bernadette Spence agreed. It was suggested this could be done for Birthdays and Anniversaries.

Peggy Arnold pointed out that 'The Pilgrim' Diocesan newspaper is an interesting read. This is the Southwark fortnightly paper.

Fr Roy thanked RS and JD for their work.

DA said that he would address the Masses at Holy Family on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July & Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 18th October 7.30pm

### **Closing Prayer and Blessing**

**Time Finished:** 21.25 hours