

## **St Joseph's Birtley Church Pastoral Council**

### **Notes of the meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025 in the Presbytery.**

1. The meeting opened with a prayer led by PM.

Present: Peter Monaghan, Hilda Fraser, Jan Rafalski, Margaret Taylor, Catherine Tumelty, Bernadette Bartlett, Pauline Pestell, Mick Davison, Michelle Irwin.

2. Apologies: Fr. Martin, Doreen Cantwell, Tom Quigley.

3. Notes of the last meeting were agreed as correct.

#### **4. Matters arising:**

MD reported that no volunteers have come forward to help set up a maintenance team.

Middle Lodge. MD reported back that he had been in discussion with Fr MW and Fr MM about the situation. **It was decided that Fr MW would speak to the diocese** and the hope is that BWCET would take up their responsibility of the lodge and reimburse the parish for the back council tax that has had to be paid. There was also information sent by TQ by email. He reported that he had called the police to the lodge on Friday evening as there was some vandalism occurring. He supplied the police with the information that the building was the responsibility of the diocese.

MD reported concerns about the parish finances and that the parish would be saving some money by cancelling the contract with Church services and developing a Youtube channel for live streaming. Support would be given by parishioners from JohnXXIII.

Church organ – CT reported that as a result of the appeal on the bulletin an instrument had been donated to the parish. Unfortunately it could not be amplified and so was unsuitable for use in church. This has subsequently been donated to the music department at Cardinal Hume School. The men's choir have kindly decided to use some funds they have to purchase an electric organ and amplifier which will be delivered soon.

Re-imagining Parish Councils – MD reported that Amy Cameron is very busy with diocesan work including the establishment of a training programme 'Called and Gifted', which will be aimed at under 40's.

CT reported on the bulletin. There have been some concerns that the sick/deaths are not included on the new bulletin, however there are copies in the porch. Those with BT emails have been unable to receive the bulletin by email but CT has been forwarding the email to these people.

Communion by tincture. JR reported that FrMW said that this would not be possible but that it is hoped to return to communion under both kinds very soon.

5. **Parish security (DC).** MT spoke about DC concerns about the security around the Parish buildings. DC had corresponded with Fr MW about this. MD reassured the parish council that we have an excellent security camera system in place.

6. **Indian community mass.** Concerns were expressed that there was mass in the parish which was not advertised. **CT would speak to Fr MW to ask for a contact from the group to open up a dialogue going forward.**

7. **Permanent recognition of the work of Deacon Peter Lavery.** CT had been approached by a parishioner to ask about this. There followed a discussion with several ideas being put forward. PP will speak to Pauline about marking Peter's anniversary.

8. **Burial of ashes.** PP confirmed that Fr MW would be burying her mum's ashes in the church grounds. MD will ask TQ if he is prepared to keep a new record of where ashes are buried, with new burials taking place beyond the rose beds, nearer to church.

9. **Noticeboard.** CT had emailed Fr MW about the plans for the noticeboard and subsequently resent them with a possible layout. These were discussed and a layout agreed by the parish council. If Fr MW agrees MT said she was happy to deal with the order.

10. **Information before the vigil mass.** CT gave information received from OLQP. She had spoken to Wyn Thompson who felt it was better to have a separate rota for this job as the readers often change at the last minute. CT has produced a simple format which will be available in the sacristy. MT produced a rota of volunteers from the Parish council, beginning on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. SEE BELOW. CT also expressed concern about the way second collections were being taken. MT said she would email the welcomers to remind them about the collections and ask them to organise two people to take the collection at the end of mass.

11. **Future parish events.** Ann Marshall has booked the parish centre for a coffee morning on 23<sup>rd</sup> November to raise funds for the parish. All help would be appreciated.

MD hopes to arrange for Canon Paul Farrer to visit the parish and say mass to remember the Lamesley Martyrs early September.

12. **AOB** It was suggested that it was put on the bulletin that in the event of an emergency the church could be exited by both doors at the back of church and through the sacristy door.

PP had been in conversation about money for church flowers. It was suggested that it could be possible to have a collection once a quarter, these would include those already in place for Easter and Christmas. MD would look at the collections rota for possible dates. There was also a discussion about investing in silk flowers.

13. **Prayers for next meeting** – MT

14. **Next meeting** – 14<sup>th</sup> September at 7p.m.

15. **Closing prayer** – PM.

#### Rota for vigil masses.

2 <sup>nd</sup> August CT	Sept 6 <sup>th</sup> PP
9 <sup>th</sup> August MT	Sept 13 <sup>th</sup> PM
16 <sup>th</sup> August JR	
23 <sup>rd</sup> August MD	
30 <sup>th</sup> August MT	

