

St Robert of Newminster Parish, Morpeth

Pastoral Council Meeting

Monday 25th September 2023

Present: Fr Peter, Michael Quincy (Chair), Pat Fanning, Bernard Cudd, Anne Beattie, Marian Bell, John Carr, Cuthbert Regan, Maura Illingworth, Chris Smith, Elizabeth Dixon, Carmel Copeland, Richard Copeland, Stephen Boulter (Deacon), Catherine Carr.

Apologies: Anne Wilson, Linda Edwards

Matters arising from meeting on June 21st 2023.

1. Letter for CAFOD was a great success with 210 signatures.
2. Organ recital to be coordinated by Clive Rich. Date to be confirmed.
3. Mass for the Sick arranged for October
4. Cheese & Wine planned for November
5. Traditional CWL Advent Service to be held on First Sunday in Advent.
6. CWL (mini) Christmas Fair scheduled for late November.
7. Parish Carol Service week commencing 18th December: Aim to involve all musicians in the parish. Volunteers needed to co-ordinate, please contact Elizabeth Dixon, Marian Bell or Chris Smith

Constitution of the Parish Council

The Council has received offers from individuals to support all areas of Mission apart from Social Activities. Anyone interested in this role is asked to contact Father Peter asap. Anne Beattie has offered to support Anne Wilson with Catechetics and Sacramental Preparation and Clive Rich is joining Marian & Linda regarding Liturgical and Spiritual Support.

Unfortunately not all were present at Pastoral Council this evening so a meeting will be scheduled for the following with Father Peter and the Chair to clarify the new roles and responsibilities, including an expectation to attend Council meetings : Clive Rich, Anne Wilson, Simon Conroy, Rachel Wilkinson, Barry Lehane and Tracey Stevenson.

Seven Areas of the Pastoral Council

1. Liturgical & Spiritual Support:

Marian requires a full list of contacts from parish secretary.

2. Pastoral Support:

Comprehensive report submitted by Chris Smith.

SVP has 3 new members.

CWL, Catechists and Three Cs are well established.

Holy Communion is taken to housebound parishioners, including residents at Riverside, Foxton Court and Northlands.

There is a small group involved in Justice & Peace projects and Christian Aid.

3. Catechetical, Sacramental Preparation & Support and Ongoing Formation:

Childrens liturgy has resumed although numbers are very low.

Baptismal preparation has commenced.

We have 15 candidates for First Confession and Holy Communion.

There are 9 couples enrolled on the marriage preparation. New couple taking over from Ben and Lyn Cole are Deacon John Hawthorn, and his wife.

There are 4 candidates on the Journey of Faith

4. Children, Young People and Schools Support:

We have a new teacher, Mr Ricardo Dunnigan in Year 4 at St Robert's

5. Social Activities:

Coffee served weekly after 9am Mass but attendance is fluctuating.

CWL are hosting a coffee morning this week in the Church Hall Thursday 10.30.

The Catenians have invited all parishioners to join them for coffee on Wednesdays at 11am in the Pavillion Café in Morpeth Park.

Plans for a Spring Fair 2024 will be an agenda item at the November Pastoral Council.

6. Mission, and Evangelisation/Justice & Peace and the Environment:

Small groups established across the locality.

7. Communications:

A new system has been introduced by the Diocese, Microsoft 365. Some frustrations identified by Father Peter as no-one can log onto the parish computer without a password from the diocese, however work is in progress to try to resolve this. Agreement that it is pivotal to keep social media up to date. Mr Alan Smith has volunteered to help with the parish website.

8. Parish Administration: Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Maintenance of buildings & Grounds:

All Safeguarding is up to date. Volunteers within the parish should have access to the new guidelines but this has been delayed due to the new computer system which only Father Peter and Mary can access.

Health & Safety Report to be submitted by John Holyoak.

Peter Smith has volunteered to take on the role of an ad hoc handy man for the parish.

What is your dream for the parish?

To be listed as main agenda item at the November Pastoral Council meeting.

Any other business

Maura Illingworth requested a lock be installed on upstairs toilet door. All requisitions for works must be submitted to Father Peter.

Date & Time of next meeting:

Monday 27th November 2023 @ 7pm, Church Hall