

South Bucks Area Pastoral Council Meeting - Notes

Tuesday 18th March 2025 - 7.30 pm at St Teresa's, Beaconsfield.

1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION										
	Joan welcomed everyone to the meeting. A special welcome to Raheel who has joined the PAC as a lay representative for St Augustine's parish. Joan thanked Joanna for standing in for her as chair at the last meeting. It was noted that both St Peter's and the High Wycombe parishes were holding Missions at this time hence we had received a number of apologies.										
2.	PRAYER AND REFLECTION										
	Margaret Van Duyvenbode, assisted by Bridget Harvey and Peter Kirk led the prayer on behalf of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Parish.										
3.	PASTORAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS										
3.1	Schedule of meetings for 2025										
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>Prayer led by</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday 23rd June</td> <td>St Augustine</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday 22nd September</td> <td>St Dunstan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday 18th November</td> <td>St Joseph</td> </tr> </table>	Date	Prayer led by	Monday 23 rd June	St Augustine	Monday 22 nd September	St Dunstan	Tuesday 18 th November	St Joseph		ALL
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3.2	Update from Clergy Meeting										
	<p>Fr Sean -reported on the last clergy meeting held on 18th February.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. There had been a robust discussion on the Easter booklet. Parishes had agreed to reduce their numbers if required. ii. Fr Jithu has taken over responsibility for trying to introduce more Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our pastoral area. He had already met with our representatives who had attended the Eucharistic Congress. They had been joined by a number of other people with specific interest in promoting Eucharistic Adoration. Their main focus is to arrange 40 hours Adoration in Marlow in October around the feast of St Carlo Acutis. iii. The clergy had discussed how the many bodies across our diocese work together, where is the line of command and how are decisions made? Fr Sean had raised this with the Council of Priests and also at the DPC. The DPC had agreed that this needs to be considered and they would set up a working group to look into this. iv. The DPC are keen to hold another diocesan assembly in 2026. Consideration is being given to a theme and initial arrangements. 										
3.3	Update from Chairs/Dean Zoom meeting and meeting with Bishop David										
	<p>Joan reported on the meeting of Chairs and Deans held via Zoom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. They had had a similar discussion around the number of committees in the diocese and their roles. ii. Neil Roseman had given a presentation about communication, CASPAR and the proposed page on the Diocesan website for the pastoral areas. It is not clear how this might be maintained and who would be responsible for this. iii. CASPAR - parish information can be taken from the diocesan directory, though people are more likely to follow their own parish website for information. iv. Aylesbury pastoral area had completed the listening process and produced a pastoral area plan. They are now preparing to move to the action phase – click 										

	<p>here for full report – which covers all main aspects of parish life. They had consulted over 400 people across their pastoral area.</p> <p>v. Luton and North Northants pastoral areas will simultaneously be the next areas to undertake the listening process.</p> <p>vi. We should now be thinking how we can prepare people in our pastoral area for the time when we will be asked to do the listening process. We could be training facilitators who could lead conversations in the Spirit.</p>	ALL
3.4	Update on Chairs Meeting with Bishop David	
	<p>Joan had attended the meeting of PA chairs with Bishop David on 1st March. Six PAs had been represented, all are at different stages of maturity in working together.</p> <p>i. Joan had reported on how our parishes were working together. At present we are working to develop a series of Jubilee initiatives across the pastoral area and trying to create a ‘community of communities’ where people in similar ministries can meet and support each other.</p> <p>ii. Bishop David had noted there are a large number of building projects in each pastoral area and talked about reaching out to new people moving in. We should not hesitate to reach out to schools and embrace new families. He had stressed the importance of embracing new cultures. This is already happening in some geographic areas.</p> <p>iii. How can we work together to support local charities and how can we pray together? How well do we understand the needs in our local area and how do we respond to them? We’re all called to serve through our Baptismal promises.</p> <p>iv. It was proposed to have an annual meeting of Chairs with Bishop David with an informal meeting of chairs in the Autumn.</p> <p>v. Joan had distributed copies of our Christmas booklet and other pastoral areas may adopt this initiative. Working together promotes the message that each parish is part of a broader Catholic family and smaller parishes benefit due to economy of scale in working together.</p>	ALL
3.4	Review of Easter Booklet 2025	
	The Easter booklet will go to print tomorrow and should be available for collection end of next week. Details of Jubilee activities have been added to raise awareness in our parishes. A digital copy will be sent to parishes and to the schools.	JB
4.	ADORATION 40 HOURS DEVOTION	
	<p>Fr Jithu is building up a record of times of Adoration offered in our pastoral area. Please advise him of times of Adoration in your parish. Each parish should be doing something to increase Adoration in its parish. We are not aware of any parishes offering “24 Hours for the Lord” in March, our focus is on 40 Hours Adoration in October.</p> <p>40 Hours Adoration is being planned at St Peter’s in Marlow over the weekend of the Canonisation of Carlo Acutis - 11-14 October 2025. Details should be finalised in time for our next meeting in June.</p> <p>If any parish is not represented on the Adoration group, then Clergy are asked to nominate a parish representative to join the group. Please send names and contact details of your nominated representative to Fr Jithu.</p>	<p>Clergy</p> <p>Fr Jithu</p> <p>Fr Jithu Clergy</p>
5.	JUBILEE PILGRIMS OF HOPE	

	A schedule of Jubilee events is being planned for 2025 across the pastoral area with each parish hopefully hosting at least one event. Please refer to the updated report from the Jubilee Sub Group for details of each event and actions required.	ALL
6	SAFEGUARDING	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Deacon Peter reported that the Chair of the Safeguarding Advisory Board is retiring, ii. There will be a Loudfence event at Our Lady Help of Christians Church in central Luton. On 7th June 2025 . This will involve the whole pastoral area. A Pilgrimage walk is planned from Holy Ghost Parish to Our Lady's. iii. Deacon Peter had looked into the possibility of separate organisations being covered by one DBS check. Unfortunately this is not possible as training requirements differ between the diocese and other groups such as SVP. iv. Porticus Trust had previously funded a 3 year project at Durham University carried out by interviewing people from all walks of life within the Catholic Church, looking into the effects of the abuse scandal in the Catholic Church. They are now funding a follow-on project called Conversations, Culture and Communion - Baroness Sheila Hollins, Abbot Christopher Jamison and the new CEO of Million Minutes were involved in a one day networking event held at St Katharine's, Limehouse v. The new Diocesan Safeguarding Policy has been signed by Bishop David and distributed to all parishes, who are asked to display this in their parishes. 	ALL Clergy
7.	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS	
	7.1 Update from Catechists AGM	
	<p>Our report highlighted the enormous assistance which our deacons were giving in sacramental preparation. For this we are very grateful.</p> <p>Fr Sean reported that our pastoral area had been well represented at the AGM as we had four of the thirteen people present. The meeting had been rather truncated into a two hour round table session which had given no opportunity for catechists to meet each other informally and share their experiences and resources.</p> <p>Fr Sean would feed back to Alex Heath on this in the hope that the format could be changed for next year.</p> <p>Bishop David's address had been a major part of the afternoon. He had looked at role of catechists. He spoke about the inner hope and desire within each of us, we're all called to pass this on to others. He asked us to consider how we recruit new catechists.</p> <p>Fr Sean thanked Christine for collating our report and asked that it be circulated with these minutes.</p>	Fr Sean Fr Sean MCC
	7.2 Update on Social Justice Report to Caritas	
	<p>Maria Cox had received only five parish responses to her survey on Social Justice activities. Deacon Brent had kindly collated these and the paper as it stands will be circulated with these minutes. Parishes who had not responded were asked to please do so. We would then submit the full report to Do Justice in Northampton and ask them how do they want us take forward the agenda in a meaningful way.</p> <p>Joan thanked Maria Cox, Fr Sean, Maria Plummer and Deacon Brent for their hard work in progressing this issue.</p>	MCC Maria Cox
8.	ROUND TABLE	
	8.1 Report on FLAME	

		Our representation had been good. The committee had anticipated 10,000 attending but had printed a further thousand tickets. 10,800 had attended. Bishop David gave the opening address and welcome. The next FLAME will be on 6th March 2027 . The lesson learned from this year was that parishes need to apply early to the Diocese for their tickets.	Parishes
	8.2	EMMAUS - Request for Feedback	
		The Emmaus project will, by the summer, have been running for two years. The core team would appreciate some feedback from PAC members many of whom are regular attendees at the talks, prior to their review meeting in May. Christine will circulate some questions to get opinions from members of the PAC.	MCC
	8.3	Passover Meals	
		St Teresa's will be holding a Passover Meal on 15th April at 7.00 pm tickets are £15 Richard Harvey will be their speaker. High Wycombe parishes will also be holding a Passover Meal; details of which are to be confirmed.	Dcn Brin
	8.4	Fr Eustace	
		Fr Sean reported that Fr Eustace had been granted extended leave by Bishop David and would shortly be returning to Nigeria possibly for 6-8 weeks. Fr Sean had met with representatives of Great Missenden and Chesham parishes to arrange cover for their Masses. Please keep Fr Eustace in your prayers.	ALL
9.	Wrap-Up and Closing Prayer		
	Fr Sean closed the meeting with a prayer and blessing.		

ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES

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

		Fr Jithu James Deacon Kevin Ryan Marie Lou Stephenson	Apologies Apologies Apologies
Beaconsfield	St Teresa's Catholic Church	Mgr Seán Healy (Dean) Fr Kamil Kawiski Maria Cox	Yes Yes Yes