

South Bucks Area Pastoral Council Meeting - Notes

Monday 27th January 2025 - 7.30 pm at St Teresa's, Beaconsfield.

1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION													
	Joanna welcomed everyone to the meeting, Fr Sean introduced Renver who is a Seminarian studying at Oscott to be a priest of our Diocese. He is coming to the end of his placement at St Teresa's.													
2.	PRAYER AND REFLECTION													
	On behalf of St Columba's Parish, Deacon Gerard and Lewis Canning led us in prayer. We lit a candle to reflect and pray on the 80 th Anniversary of Holocaust Memorial Day.													
3.	DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL - UPDATE													
	<p>Unfortunately Pedro had sent his apologies as he was still at work. Fr Sean therefore reported that there had been two face to face meetings and one via Zoom of the DPC.</p> <p>The DPC had been asked to reflect on section three of the final report from the Synod for Synodality which considered:- how do we function within our Diocese at the various levels? How can Parish, Pastoral Area and Diocesan Councils drive forward the Mission of the Church. The Synod in Rome had been very firm that all parishes should have some form of Parish or Pastoral Council.</p> <p>How can parishes break out of parish groups and work more collaboratively to pool their resources in such areas as Finance, administration, catechesis - Everything we do should further the mission of the Church. What would be most difficult to achieve? Should there be a central fund in a pastoral area on which parishes could draw.</p> <p>The Synodal process had breathed life into our Diocesan Assembly which had been a joyful occasion. How can the DPC replicate that in our parish/pastoral councils and Pastoral Area Councils. They too should be joyful celebrations of our faith and achievements. The role of the DPC is still evolving - it should not be a talking shop but had to take actions.</p> <p>Fr Sean pointed out that In September 2025 the Diocese celebrates 175 yrs anniversary of its inauguration.</p>													
4.	PASTORAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS													
4.1	<p>Schedule of meetings for 2025 Some of our original dates clashed with a regular monthly meeting held at St Teresa's. The following dates for 2025 were agreed together with the prayer leads for each. All meetings will take place at 7.30-9.00 pm at St Teresa's Beaconsfield.</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Prayer led by</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Monday 27 January 2025</td> <td>St Columba</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday 18 March 2025</td> <td>Our Lady of Perpetual Succour</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday 23rd June 2025</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> </tbody> </table> <p>Christine will confirm these dates to St Teresa's parish office.</p>	Date	Prayer led by	Monday 27 January 2025	St Columba	Tuesday 18 March 2025	Our Lady of Perpetual Succour	Monday 23 rd June 2025	St Augustine	Monday 22 nd September	St Dunstan	Tuesday 18 th November	St Joseph	<p>ALL</p> <p>MCC</p>
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4.2	REVISION OF PASTORAL AREA HANDOUT													

	<p>Our handout was first published in 2023 - It was suggested that the date be added..</p> <p>Maria Plummer now represents John Henry Newman. Brin will invite Raheel Nadeem to join the PAC as a lay representative for St Augustine's.</p> <p>It would be useful to republish the handout for the Jubilee Year of Hope as most people are unaware of our activities. Each parish should determine how it should be communicated and publicised.</p>	<p>DcnBrin</p> <p>Clergy</p>
4.3	REVIEW OF THE CHRISTMAS BOOKLET 2024	
	<p>There was some discussion as to whether the amount of time, effort and money to produce this could be justified. Most people tend to go to their local parish for Christmas Services. On balance it was agreed that it was well received by parishioners and it was particularly helpful for families who perhaps need to split the times of Masses that they attend to cater for family needs over Christmas. Sending an electronic version to schools was also very useful.</p> <p>Maria suggested that if we did a similar book for Easter could we then ask parishioners how helpful it was to them. Had people attended a service in their own parish or gone elsewhere. She also commented that the booklet focused very much on church services and does not include any seasonal outreach activities which are offered, eg the SVP Christmas Day lunch. If our church is to be more missionary in its outlook could the principal outreach activities be included?</p> <p>It was pointed out that although this may be possible if could increase the cost of producing the booklet if it ran beyond its current page numbers.</p> <p>Deacon Peter said he is already being asked by local newspapers for the times of their Easter and Reconciliation Services in order to publicise these for us.</p> <p>Joanna suggested that perhaps the clergy should meet to discuss this issue.</p> <p>It was noted that St Joseph's is now the only parish which does not produce a paper newsletter.</p> <p>Joan will send out an email with the timescale for requesting information for the Easter booklet.</p>	<p>Clergy</p> <p>Clergy</p> <p>Joan</p>
5.	JUBILEE PILGRIMS OF HOPE	
	<p>Fr Sean presented a paper from the Jubilee subgroup giving details of events proposed by members and suggestions for celebrating specific jubilees each month in line with the Jubilees being celebrated in Rome. In summary:-</p> <p>Pilgrimage to Westminster Cathedral - was proposed as we are part of the province of Westminster. Fr Sean had made contact with the Guild of St John Southworth and with Fr Brian O'Mahoney. A tour would be possible and they would provide a venue for our lunch. There is no specific Holy Door but the indulgence can be received by visiting the Cathedral. Fr Sean to find suitable dates</p> <p>Pilgrimage to Northampton Cathedral - We normally attend the Chrism Mass. Joan will ask Keyna if she is willing to arrange a coach from the pastoral area. The Chrism Mass is this year being held on WEDNESDAY 16th APRIL @ 11.00 AM.</p>	<p>Fr Sean</p> <p>Joan</p>

	Pilgrimage to St Peter's Marlow - St Peter's is our local Jubilee Church. Perhaps we could visit as a pastoral area group. Would someone be available to tell us the history of the church and give an explanation of the Jubilee Indulgence. Fr Sean will contact Canon John.	Fr Sean
	Celebration Day for Pastoral Area - Fr John's suggestion of a family day with a variety of activities was a good one but needs a team to work with him. Maria Cox offered to assist and proposed St Joseph's School as a venue as it has a large open space with indoor space in case of bad weather. Clergy should ask in their own parishes if there is anyone who would be interested in helping to organise this day. A date in June after the exams is proposed. This suggestion will be considered the meeting on 1st February at St Teresa's.	Fr John Mc Maria Cox Clergy ALL
	Rosary Rally - gather our parish rosary groups together with Deacon Brin giving his presentation on the Rosary. There is a Marian Jubilee in October Deacon Brin and Christine to organise Caritas - Could we have some form of outreach project to which all parishes could sign up during the Jubilee year? Jubilee Choir - Forming a Jubilee Choir is a good idea but we need someone to lead this. Please send suggestions to Joan. Pastoral Area Retreat - Two options were proposed, a weekend retreat at Boars Hill or a day retreat at the Bridgettine Convent. It was felt that we would get more interest if the retreat was local. The Bridgettine sisters had offered Saturday 24th May as a date. Fr Sean will consider who to invite as our retreat leader. Canon John Udris and Fr Matt Blake were suggested. Jubilee of Deacons - Deacon Brent will be in Rome for this Jubilee on 23 rd February. Deacons Brin and Paul agreed to write a prayer to celebrate our Deacons and the support they receive from their wives to be read at all Masses on 22/23 February. Fr Sean said that a special focus should be made over the weekend in parishes to give thanks for and promote the permanent diaconate. Deacon Brent will ask Fr Tony Brennan if he has any brochures promoting the diaconate which we could distribute around our parishes. ACTION:- Parishes to discuss at their parish/pastoral councils and reach out to others to assist us with proposed events. Please provide details to Christine if your parish would like to host a particular Jubilee event so that we can build up a Jubilee Year calendar of events.	Dcn Brin Christine Maria Cox ALL Joan Fr Sean Dcns Brin/Paul Fr Sean Dcn Brent ALL
6.	ADOREMUS EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE AND CONGRESS - PROGRESS REPORT ON ADORATION/40hrs ADORATION	
	Fr Jithu has yet to meet with the representatives who attended the Eucharistic Congress and Pilgrimage. If priests sent someone from their parish would they please contact those people and ask them if they can pass on their contact details to Fr Jithu.	Fr Jithu Clergy
7.	JOINT EVENT WITH AYLESBURY PASTORAL AREA	
	Fr Sean had contacted Canon John Beirne who felt that this was a busy time to organise a joint event as they are very involved with the listening process.	
8.	SAFEGUARDING	
	courses. However they must do so, in order to avoid people falling through the cracks.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Safeguarding advisory board is in early stages of planning a Loud Fence event in Luton. • Safeguarding training had gone well. There are very few priests not now trained. • Tuesday 20th May -International Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse. • Exploring Safeguarding: join our Called & Equipped group as we take a look at safeguarding and what it means for ourselves and our parishes. This is an opportunity for those in parish ministries to get a better understanding of safeguarding from our diocesan safeguarding team, Danielle Dixon and Laura Lester. The venue is Holy Ghost Church, Luton on Saturday 8 March from 10am-1pm. Previous groups have found the presentation very inspiring and the best safeguarding training they have ever received. click here to register <p>Whilst there was an input that people do not wish to complete multiple training courses, which has already been fed through to the Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator, they must complete our diocesan courses - level 1 for all volunteers (reading a simple leaflet) and level 3 if they need a DBS clearance for a parish ministry online. If they carry out work for another organisation, which extends beyond our diocese, for example SVP, or school teachers, they will have to undergo the training required by that organisation. It actually will not save on overheads as these are all online resources.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>DcnPeter</p>
9.	OUTSTANDING ACTIONS	
	9.1 Caritas	
	<p>Maria Cox, Maria Plummer and Fr Sean had met with Brian Emmanuel who is our local Caritas representative.</p> <p>The Caritas Mission statement is “To serve the world’s poor, vulnerable and marginalized people - what does Caritas expect from PACs? There are many organisations involved in social justice. Caspar should be able to provide an overview of services we offer but this is not yet available.</p> <p>Maria handed out a form for lay representatives to complete for their parish outlining outreach services they provide so that she could collate what outreach we are offering across the pastoral area. Christine offered to recreate the form so that it could be emailed to lay representatives please complete it within two weeks prior to their next meeting on 18th March.</p>	<p>Lay Reps Christine</p>
	9.2 CATECHISTS AGM	
	<p>This will be held at Sacred Heart Parish in Leighton Buzzard on Saturday 8th March 2025 at 2.00-4.30 pm. <i>Post Meeting note</i> - Christine has checked details with Alex Heath. Usual allocation of places is two catechists plus the Dean from each pastoral area. However, some PAs are only sending one person so we can send more if we wish to. Clergy, please submit names to Fr Sean for him to select participants. Christine has been invited to attend to speak about Emmaus and the Word on Fire Conference. Deacon Gerard will ask Frederica if she would be interested in attending. Please send your parish report to Christine by SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY so that she can collate our report. Christine to circulate last year’s report.</p>	<p>Clergy DcnGF Clergy Christine</p>
	9.3 FLAME	
	<p>Deacon Peter has emailed parish offices. He has 30 tickets to allocate. He will request more if required. Fr Jerome has three people attending from St Joseph’s. Deacon Peter will try to arrange that everyone sits together.</p>	<p>DcnPeter</p>
10.	ROUND TABLE	

	<p>10.2 Saturday 1st February - The Call to Synodality. Avril Baigent will be with us and Austen Ivereigh will join via zoom to share their experiences of the Synod for Synodality. 1000-1600 hrs. Bring your own lunch.</p> <p>10.2 Wednesday 5th February -Emmaus talk - Bishop David Oakley will speak on "Proclaiming the Lord's Favour" A biblical background in light of the Jubilee Year. 7.30 pm at St Teresa's Church Beaconsfield. Please encourage people to join us in person whenever possible.</p> <p>10.3 Synod Report - Fr John suggested running five sessions on Sundays during Lent from 3.30-5.00 pm at St Teresa's to look at one chapter of the report in each session. He felt this would revitalise interest in Synodality and keep the process alive. Fr Sean will check availability of the parish centre for those Sundays in Lent. The School for Synodality were going to run online sessions to do this.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>Fr Sean</p>
11.	Wrap-Up and Closing Prayer	
	Joanna read the prayer said as pilgrims approach the Holy Door at St Peter's in Rome. Mgr Sean closed the meeting with a 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	Yes Yes Yes
Chesham Bois	Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic Church	Fr Roy Karakkattu Margaret van Duyvenbode Bridget Harvey	Apologies Yes Apologies
Little Chalfont	St Aidan's Catholic Church	Joanna Hale (Exec) Peter Kirk	Yes Yes
High Wycombe <i>St Augustine's</i>	St Augustine's Catholic Church	Fr Jonathan Hill Fr Allesanddro Reno Deacon Brin Dunsire	Apologies Apologies 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 Yes
High Wycombe <i>St John Henry Newman</i>	Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church St John Henry Newman	Deacon Paul Priestley Maria Plummer	yes 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	Apologies Yes Yes Apologies Apologies Apologies
Marlow	St Peter's Catholic Church	Fr John Udris Fr Jithu James Deacon Kevin Ryan Marie Lou Stephenson	Apologies Yes Yes Yes
Beaconsfield	St Teresa's Catholic Church	Mgr Seán Healy (Dean) Maria Cox Trish Fearn Renver - guest	Yes Yes No