

Parishes in Communion for Mission

Joint Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

*Our Lady of Lourdes, Kingswood
St Augustine's, Downend
St John Fisher, Frenchay
St Lawrence & Paul, Chipping Sodbury & Yate*

Notes from the Meeting held at St Augustine's Tuesday 6th July 2010, 7.30pm

Preamble

With the publication of the document '*Parishes in Communion for Mission*' it was made clear that these four parishes would form a new pastoral area sharing the ministry of two priests. In a meeting earlier this day the Bishop spoke with the three existing parish priests. He reinforced his published statement that all our deliberations should be in a positive light and be focused on enabling communion and strengthening mission.

Mass All attended mass prior to the meeting.

Welcome/Prayer

Representatives from the four parish pastoral councils were welcomed and the meeting opened with prayer.

Introduction by Parish Priests

A brief statement was made by each priest to give the meeting a flavour of their thoughts.

1. The first spoke about the necessity of using the correct language to properly convey the thinking and intentions of the Bishop. In particular '*clustering*' is to be avoided because it avoids using the key words *communion* and *mission* which are essential to proper understanding.
We also have to embrace a new thinking about parish priests. They will no longer belong to one parish. They will be shared by all in the larger communion.
Positive thinking will underpin our endeavours. We are faced with a challenge but also a great opportunity to become a stronger church.
2. The second spoke positively about the prospect of deepening communion. He spoke of a bright future for the church with priests committed to the cause and working as equals alongside the people. His experience in San Paulo showed how a number of communities could flourish while sharing a priest. He mentioned the joy they shared when on major feasts they would all come together for worship.
3. The third stressed the importance of parishes working together. Not all parishes are good at everything and will benefit hugely by the expertise of another. The stronger always helping the weaker. But more importantly the joint enterprise will be a source of growth for all and will enable each member to grow in Faith Hope and Love.

These sentiments were greeted with warm approval by the representatives.

"There was a unanimous positive reaction and groups went into general principals of what they hoped for as well as giving specific examples." (ed. Given after the meeting)

Latest News from the Bishop

Fr Patrick informed the meeting that he was being moved from Kingswood to Chard parish in September. This news meant that the provision of priests in our area would indeed be reduced to two.

Time to Talk The parish representatives were given fifteen minutes to consider the Opportunities and Concerns of our new situation.

Feedback **Given in order of presentation at the meeting.**

1. When masses are reduced in number transport may become a problem and would need to be organised.
2. Catechists should be shared for confirmation. (ed. And by implication other sacraments and RCIA)
3. More catechists will be needed to be trained.
4. Prayer together is essential before social gathering. A joint mass was proposed and approved of by the meeting.
5. Kingswood is largely unknown to Chipping Sodbury. Links must be established.
6. Groups should get together straight away. (Legion of Mary, SVP, UCM, youth choir, etc.)
7. Sharing of parish expertise vital.
8. Websites are an excellent way of promulgating and sharing parish information. Parishes without a website could be helped by others with the expertise. A common website might be considered in the future.
9. A shared bulletin should be considered. (Perhaps monthly)
10. Group leaders should be encouraged and where possible share skills.
11. More leaders should be encouraged to come forward and should be offered appropriate training where needed. We should *“get over not asking people”*
12. Recognition of talents especially in the young should be a priority.
13. Priests know people very well but parishioners especially across old borders do not. We look forward to a *“groundswell of understanding”* as we learn to be parishes in communion. (ed. for mission.)
14. Why not shared social activities? Or perhaps a joint Three Schools Choir Festival to include extended families so that all can belong.
15. Already (today) we have experienced a wonderful liturgy together. It should be a sign of the possibilities of greater communion in the future.
16. We should build on good experience.
17. Parishes at present are not being amalgamated. They remain separate entities with their own names but are simply being called to deepen their communion for the good of the common mission.
18. Priests will be working as equals. Collaborative ministry.
19. The two priests are committed to giving their time equally to the whole area but in particular will make sure that Kingswood does have time with a priest in residence during the week.
20. A concern was voiced about the provision of ministers for funerals and cremations. Procedures are well established with funeral directors to contact other priests and deacons in the deanery.

The following points were sent in after the meeting.

21. Parishes will need full time management or secretarial support.
22. A central contact number would be helpful so that a priest or deacon could be located in an emergency.
23. All parishes must be vigilant about safeguarding and have the appropriate officers.
24. The four parishes should come together for a shared supper.

Date of Next Meeting **Tuesday October 5th 2010 7.30pm at St Paul's Church, Yate.**

Prayer

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer and a blessing.

Present

Deacon Mike Belt	St A	
Deacon Peter Hinchey	St A	
Fr Frank	St A	staugustinesbristol@yahoo.co.uk
Suzanne O'Hara	St A	sue.oh@yahoo.co.uk
Carmen Bradley	St A	bradley39@talktalk.net
John Hardwick	St A	hardwick@hp.com
Mary Daly	St A	mary362daly@btinternet.com
Ann Gathercole	St A	thegathercoles@blueyonder.co.uk
Maureen Cully	St A	francis.cully@sky.com
Pat Mallin	OLOL	
Murial Nichols	OLOL	
Fr Patrick	OLOL	olol@catholic.org
Sally Watson	St L	
George Williams	St L	
Gay Williams	St L	
Jean Parsons	St L	
Kath Parsons	St L	
Eleanor Biggs	St L	
Peter Farmer	St L	19pmaf47@talktalk.net
Anne Farmer	St L	
Sr Greta	St L	
Laura Biggs	St L	
Peggy Corp	St L	
J. Withers	St L	
Mark Arnold	St L	
Angela Arnold	St L	
John Woods	St L	
Angela Calder	St L	
Deacon Vincent Calder	St L	vk.calder@virgin.net
Rosalie Hurford	St L	
Beth Bradford	St L	
Tessa Laurence	St L	
June Lockett	St L	
Patricia Davis	St L	
Patricia O'Rourke	St L	
Dorothy Simmons	St L	
George Bailey	St L	researchgb@hotmail.com
Barry Simmons	St L	barry.simmons@blueyonder.co.uk
Sr Fidelis	St L	
Maurice Corp	St L	
Morgan Hurford	St L	morgan.hurford@yahoo.co.uk
Margaret Flatley Lane	St L	
Chris Hughes	St L	
Phil O'Rourke	St L	philorourke@btinternet.com
Fr Jim	St L	jim.williams@virgin.net

Addendum

Our Lady of Lourdes	2 Court Road, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 9QB	0117 9498743
St John Fisher	Begbrook Park, Frenchay, BS16 1NF	
St Augustines	Boscombe Crescent Downend, BS16 6QR	0117 9833939
St Lawrence	71 Broad Street, Chipping Sodbury, BS37 6AD	01454 312161
St Paul	Sundridge Park, Yate, BS37 4EP	

www.staugustinesbristol.com

www.stlawrenceandstpaul.co.uk