

ST ALBAN'S R.C. CHURCH
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
20TH JANUARY 2011

Present: Fr Gerry Murphy, Shaun Reid, Kevin Boyle,
Clare Cox, Mary Keogh, Geoff Rowlands, Jo Rowlands,
Mark Booton, Cath Green, Eileen Rees, James Kissane

Apologies: Maria Neads, Fran Wickes

Opening Prayer – led by Clare Cox – “Walk With Me O My Lord” – sung.

Minutes from Last Meeting – approved.

Parish Plan – we continued to discuss the Mission Statement and how we will approach the various parish groups. It was felt that we should be seen more of a facilitator and we certainly do not want to give the impression of interference. A letter of introduction will be discussed at the next meeting and there will be a mention of what we wish to do in the newsletter in sometime in March.

The following points are to be included in our plan for the groups:-

How to better plan the liturgical year
How to evolve the groups
What support is required
How to better understand

The timescale for this is to run through March and April and this will be further discussed once Fr Paul has started.

Fr Paul Newman – starting 2nd February- will be on holiday for the last two weeks of February.

Report From Oakwood – successful Christian Unity meeting on 19th January. Ecumenical Lent planning has taken place.

Fr Gerry's Sabbatical – we discussed the various effects of Fr Gerry's absence. Collections dropped during this period and there were mixed feeling about the change in mass times and it was interesting to have a different priest for an extended period. Fr Gerry's "Hello, Goodbye" sermon and how significant it was for the entire parish. Fr Gerry also said how his sabbatical could actually benefit the Parish Council in being the group we are supposed to be and how we should be able to express ourselves better.

Baptism Group – there has been a mixed reaction from participants in the group – some have dropped out, perhaps confused that the parish priest is not directing the preparations. It is felt that there should be some halfway point at which to meet on this.

Buildings & Maintenance – there are a lot of issues effecting St Albans at present. A group has been set up – Shaun, Eileen, Kevin and James – to deal with these. A meeting is set for 26th January.

Fr Gerry – 10 years service to the parish has now come to an end. We are all very sad about this, however equally looking forward to Fr Paul's arrival. We said goodbye to Fr Gerry with a glass of wine.

Closing Prayer – led by Fr Gerry

Future Meeting Dates – 3rd March – opening prayer to be led by Mary Keogh
14th April
Further dates to be agreed at meeting on 3rd March