

Central & West Reading Pastoral Area
Parishes of St James & St William of York, English Martyrs
and St Joseph's.

Minutes from the joint Parish Pastoral Council meeting
8 February 2010

Venue: English Martyrs

Mgr. John Nelson

Canon John O'Shea	Charlie McArthur (EM/SJo,)
Ben Awuah (SJ/SW)	Harry McSoley (EM/SJo)
Graham Bell (EM/SJo,)	Hugh Roddie (EM/SJo)
Chris Burton (EM/SJo,)	Sabine Schwartz (University)
Ann Epps (EM/SJo)	Chris Wright (SJ/SW)
Carmen Ibanez (EM/SJo)	Tim Wright (EM/SJo)
George Nowacki (EM/SJo) (Minutes secretary)	

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:

Mgr John Nelson welcomed Canon John O'Shea who had replaced Fr Dominic as Priest in Charge of St James.

Apologies were received from Fr. Joseph Awoh, Frankie Atherton (EM/SJo) and Angela Crawley (EM/SJo)

2. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting opened at 7.35 pm with a prayer led by Father John.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 9 NOVEMBER

There were no matters raised.

4. MOVING AHEAD WITH THE IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

4.1 Catechesis

Chris Burton has asked various catechists about their methods, ideas and problems. We should consider the Sacraments as steps in a continuous journey rather than as isolated events. A youth coordinator could be involved in the guidance of youth through the earlier stages. Chris would set up a meeting at which catechists could share experiences and decide how best to share their knowledge and resources on a Pastoral Area basis. Prospective new catechists would be invited and all areas would be explored including Marriage Preparation and RCIA. Fr. John (N) said that different people had different needs regarding the depth of instruction they were seeking; this applied particularly to Confirmation and RCIA courses and should be taken into account. Training needs for Catechists would need to be identified.

4.2 Outreach and communication

It was important to gather in those on the fringes of the Church. Several needs were identified; the welcoming/celebratory nature of services (not necessarily "joyful" as for example the Bereavement Service had been very well-received and popular.) We need to foster a community spirit and encourage people to feel that they belonged rather than feeling like weekly visitors. Fr John (N) would be talking to Ona Rowberry and Angela Wills to come up with some ideas for improving social contact. (A social gathering after the 6.30 Saturday Mass at English Martyrs at which new parishioners could meet established ones had been a good start.)

4.3 Youth coordinator

Fr John (N) reported that some funding for a coordinator would probably be available from the Edmund Rice Fund and possibly from monies retained by the churches in the Pastoral Area from the Living Our Faith campaign. Fr John (O) said that in his previous Pastoral Area, they had appointed a youth coordinator funded by the eight churches in the area. The coordinator reported to a management group set up by the Pastoral Area.

Charlie McArthur had met a Christian youth worker who was prepared to talk to prospective youth workers in reading and to offer some training.

Fathers John Nelson and O'Shea would discuss how such a project should be set up and organized and will present their proposals for discussion at the next meeting.

5. DAY OF REFLECTION FOR OUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

Those present agreed in principle that we should hold a half-day meeting for reflection and in-depth discussion of priorities and other topics for which there had been insufficient time at normal meetings. Saturday morning would probably be the best time but it was unlikely that such a meeting could be fitted in before Easter.

6. PREPARATION FOR THE BISHOP'S VISIT

Most of the topics likely to be discussed had been covered in this meeting but Fr John encouraged Council members to raise any pressing matters with the Bishop.

7. FUTURE EVENTS IN THE PASTORAL AREA (for information)

- Passover meals (31 March)
- Bereavement service
- Advent service (28 November)
- Mass of anointing for the sick

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

□ On Saturday 24 April, from 10 pm to 3 pm AT St Joseph's, there would be a retreat, aimed at Ministers, but to which all in the Pastoral Area were invited.

□ Ben Awuah suggested that we should set targets and timescales for our agreed priorities. Chris Burton said that we would need to know first how we would be tackling these priorities before we could set timescales; the "day of reflection" would be an excellent opportunity to do this.

□ Fr John (N) asked all to pray for the repose of the souls of Archbishop Paul Verdzekov and Fr Maurice Toomey who had died recently.

□ Hugh Roddie reported that the coming meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral Council would be held on 12 and 13 February. The theme of this meeting would be interfaith dialogue. A booklet produced by the Bishop's Conference would be coming out soon.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 9.30 pm.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This would be on Monday 15 March at 7.30 at St Joseph's.

NOTE!

Please try to attend the meeting with the Bishop at English Martyrs on Thursday 4 March at 7 pm (Refreshments available from 6.30 pm.)

ACTION LIST

ITEM	ACTION	WHO
4.1	Organize meeting for catechists and identify training needs	Chris Burton
4.2	Discuss and propose method of appointing, paying and managing a youth coordinator	Fr John Nelson & Fr John O'Shea
6	Attend the meeting with the Bishop at English Martyrs on Thursday 4 March at 7 pm	All Pastoral Council members