

Parish Pastoral Council
St James & St William of York

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday, 2nd July 2008

Present:	Raghid Bassil	
	Graham Bell	
	Mary Butler	
	Fr Dominic Golding	Parish priest
	Jo Hopkins	
	Esther Kimani	
	Carolina Milanesi	Vice chair
	Chike Okonkwo	
	Paul Raja	
	Angela Wills	Visiting from English Martyrs/St Joseph's parish
	Chris Wright	Chair person
	Carmen Ybanèz	Visiting from English Martyrs/St Joseph's parish
	Jackie Welton	Minutes secretary

1. **Opening Prayer**

The meeting began with a prayer led by Fr Dominic.

2. **Apologies and introductions**

Apologies were received from Ginika Okoye and Cecilia Mutongerwa. Carolina introduced Angela Wills and Carmen Ybanèz who were representing the PPC of English Martyrs and St Joseph's.

3. **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

Greetings cards: Chris Wright told members that Flavia Sentamu is planning to have a stand at Patrons Day and that Audrey would prefer to keep using her current card suppliers.

Disability issues: The group had a meeting with Sean Hayes, the Diocesan Surveyor, about the two proposed projects - improving the ramp at St James and moving the doorway of the toilets at St Williams to provide a disabled access. The process will be slow as there are many permissions to be obtained before any work can commence, especially at St James. Jo is meeting with the architect at St James on 10th July.

First Aid: A course has been booked for Saturday, 13th September and the hall at English Martyrs has been booked. It will be a joint venture with English Martyrs and St Josephs. So far Jo has 4 people who have expressed an interest and is looking for someone from the 9am mass to take part.

Wheelchair: Chris asked that PPC members ensure that the wheelchair at St James is returned to the correct position in the Sacristy cupboard so that it doesn't fall out when the door is opened as happened recently. During the 6pm and 11am masses the wheelchair is to be placed beside the statue of St James.

4. **Parish project**

Mary told members that as so much money has been raised so far there are no plans to hold any more fundraising events for the current charities, apart from the second collection on Patrons Day. She has received a letter from Kate Burke of the Catholic Children's Society praising the parish for their support. Articles about the 2 charities have been sent to George

Fomba for inclusion in the next parish magazine. Mary asked if there is to be a presentation of cheques at Patrons Day. Fr Dominic said he hasn't made a decision yet.

This year's group consisted of 4 parishioners, representatives from the 2 charities and Mary as the PPC link. As two members of the group have now moved to another parish and will no longer be involved Fr Dominic said that he will appeal at all masses nearer the time for volunteers. In 15th September's newsletter parishioners will be invited to nominate charities for consideration and will have until 15th October to do so. There will be a separate meeting of the PPC on 22nd October to decide which charities will be supported for the next year. A questionnaire is to be completed for each nomination and will be given to the PPC members to read before the meeting. The launch weekend will be the first Sunday of Advent. Fr Dominic doesn't feel that it is necessary for a member of the PPC to be on the Project Group.

Action: Fr Dominic to decide when the cheques will be issued.

5 Story Sacks

Mary brought along a couple of the sacks from St Williams for members to see. They each a single biblical theme and consist of soft toys, books and puzzles. The trial at St Williams has been very successful with positive comments being received from parents. If they are to be introduced at St James someone will have to be responsible for making sure they are available at the start of mass and to sort them out and put away after mass. Mary says that a group of parishioners would also be needed to put make the sacks and resource the contents. Fr Dominic suggested that members of the African Community may be willing to do this. Jo will also be mentioning them to the parents taking part on the Baptism Course. Jo Hopkins asked that we record our thanks to Rosemary Woodman and Mary Butler for all their hard work in setting up the scheme.

6. Patrons Day

Chris reported that preparations are well under way. There are to be two shopping trips - one to buy non- perishable foods on Saturday, 12th July and a food run on 26th July. Chike has been tasked with finding 12 volunteers to serve the food and members of the UCM will be asked at their next meeting if they would like to help. Following an enquiry from Ginika it was decided that tickets would be needed by each adult planning to attend but not children. It was also suggested that a bucket be available after mass for donations towards the cost of food.

7. Links with English Martyrs and St Josephs.

Some of the points from Angela and Carmen were as follows:

- St Josephs don't have a problem with noisy children as they have a 'cry room'.
- English Martyrs/St Joseph's are looking to offer more adult formation.
- English Martyrs have people from more nationalities going to their masses and looking for ways to celebrate the different cultures.
- There is a need for more marriage preparation.
- Fr Dominic asked about the planned day of prayer in September on Stewardship but Angela said a date hasn't been fixed yet.
- Carmen said that she is a member of a working group which looks after various aspects of St Josephs and is separate from the PPC. Photos of the crib at St Josephs are to be made into Christmas Cards to raise money and they are planning Christmas hampers.
- It was suggested that we hold a joint Advent Service possibly at St James.

8. Parish priest's business

Terms of Office: Each member has received a form showing when they joined the PPC and when they are required to stand down. Mary Butler finishes her term in December. All members serve 4 years and are not able to serve again for another 4 years after leaving. Fr Dominic said that 2 more people are needed. One to replace Raghid and one to fill the last remaining vacancy.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): Christine Gordon and Caroline Simpson have agreed to co-ordinate the programme and Fr Dominic is looking for one more person to join them. It will follow the same format as two years ago when run by Fr P J Smith. Different parishioners will be asked to give one talk on a subject relating to the Catholic Church. The course will be advertised in the newsletter in September and commence in October. There are already 8 people who have expressed an interest in taking part.

Prison Chaplain: Following the retirement of Cecilia Weathers, Fr Dominic has been appointed Catholic chaplain to Reading Prison. He is to do sessional work, ie what and when he can. He already celebrates mass in the prison on a Saturday morning and will now spend time visiting each inmate on Friday mornings. The Governor had expressed a wish that the next chaplain be a member of the clergy.

9 Any other business

Jo Hopkins asked that members considered purchasing a digital projector and laptop for the Baptism Course as at present they were borrowing equipment from various sources. Following a discussion it was decided that go ahead with this. It was also suggested that we should make it available to borrow by English Martyrs and St Josephs.

As Raghid has moved to Sutton and this was to be his last meeting Fr Dominic thanked him for the contribution he had made to the PPC.

10. Dates of next meetings

Wednesday, 3rd September

Wednesday, 1st October

The meeting closed at 9pm with a prayer led by Jo Hopkins

Prayer leaders for the next meeting: Graham Bell