

Dorset Deanery Pastoral Forum

Notes of the meeting held in Dorchester on Wednesday 14 April 2010

Present:

Father Martin Budge VF – Dean of Dorset - (Chair) Our Lady's, Marnhull
Geoffrey Carey – Our Lady, Weymouth & Portland
Pat Haddon – St Mary and St Catherine, Bridport
Ciarran McGuinness – our Lady of Lourdes & St Cecelia, Blandford Forum
Nancy Brook – Our Lady Star of the Sea/Weymouth
Father Stephen Geddes – Our Lady Star of the Sea/Weymouth
Father Barry Hallett – St Joseph's, Poole
Derek Russell – Holy Family, Bournemouth
Deacon James Mackain-Bremner – Our Lady's Marnhull
Carmelita Davey – Our Lady of Fatima, Parkstone, Poole
Bill Davey – Our Lady of Fatima, Parkstone, Poole
Vernon Welch – Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Joseph's, Wool
Judith Williams – (Admin Secretary) - St Mary's Poole
Dorothy Brant – (Minutes Secretary) - St Anthony of Padua, Broadstone

Apologies: Nigel Waite, Canon Peter Webb, Helen Barnes, Michelle Hooper, Joy Marsden

Father Budge opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Minutes of Prior Meeting (27th January) and Matters Arising

1.1 Joy Marsden and Diane Jennings have resigned from the Forum due to personal reasons.

1.2 Matters Arising

(a) We still require a further Representative on the Diocesan Council, ideally someone from West Dorset. Pat Haddon very kindly said she would consider being the representative. *Since the meeting* Pat has advised that she has spoken to her priest, Father Paul and she would be happy to represent us on the Council pro temp. In September Father Paul may appoint a different parishioner to the Deanery Forum and if so Pat will step down.

(b) Communications between Parishes: Prior to the meeting Michelle emailed us all with her latest draft of the organisations within each parish (Dorset Parish Groups 2010.xls), she also emailed a document providing some rationale on inclusions and exclusions for the list (Notes to Parish Activities Lists.doc). She requested that we all check our own entries for completeness. Omissions and corrections can be sent to Michelle at mhooper@eastdorset.gov.uk or alternatively you can leave a message for Michelle Hooper at St Catherine's Parish Office on 01202 883312.

(c) Catechesis Resources: At the October meeting Deacon James suggested that the Deanery created a Materials Database in order to make the best use of resources owned by various parishes. This could act as a useful place to read reviews and to see where it may be possible to borrow programmes. The sort of resources to include could be all CaFE material (eg 'Knowing

God'; 'Baptism'; 'Youth Cafe'; 'Life in Christ' etc. see: www.faithcafe.org/), 'Evangelium', Scripture courses and home made courses.

Although the Forum believes this could be very useful, as it is an unnecessary expense for the various parishes to hold copies of the same material, the response to Deacon James' request for details of resources held (and whether you are prepared to lend your copy) has been very poor. Please send details of resources held in your parish to Deacon James at ndorsetcatholic@live.co.uk

We were also reminded that if we are holding a course for our parishioners, it is good practise to advertise the course in neighbouring parishes and invite them to attend.

2 Stewardship Presentation

David Wells gave an interesting presentation on Stewardship bringing us up-to-date with Stewardship developments in the Diocese.

David started the presentation by saying he believed there should be an emphasis on Stewardship, but Stewardship is not at Cause. He reminded us that in the diocese there are
37 priests older than 65 years
20 priests less than 50 years
1 priest less than 40 years

He said we, as parishioners, very often lack confidence. We should regard ourselves as gifted.

He compared a Patriarchy with Stewardship

In a Patriarchy we think the next tier above will sort it out; those at the top are responsible; ask the Priest, leave it to the Priest.

With Stewardship – the answer to a crisis lies within ourselves.

Three parishes within the diocese have run a pilot focusing on Stewardship. An initial draft document has been produced 'All is Gift' which is the first half of a resource to help individuals and groups to consider what it means to live a life of Christian stewardship. Copies of this booklet were available for us to take away.

3 Deanery reorganisation & plans

(a) Weymouth is now one parish and they are in the process of getting the building program started. They plan on building a new hall and whatever they can afford to do on the Church. The work will be self-funded. The church in Portland is going on the market shortly.

(b) The Poole Unit Steering Group (PUSG) has drawn up a mandate which proposes that the PUSG continues the work which it started in January 2008 and draws up a Development Plan, the scope and assumptions of which are described in the Mandate. This Mandate has been discussed and approved by the four PPC's. To assist the PUSG a number of working parties have been formed and these will provide input, helping the PUSG to finalise a draft Development Plan prior to the Bishop's visit to Poole in October.

(c) Vernon reported that the people of Wareham, Lulworth and Wool were finding it difficult without a Parish Priest but they are all gathering in Wool and are grateful to Father Veal. Vernon also said how proud he is of the way the people have responded to the needs of the Parish.

5. Dorset Youth Forum

Nancy reported that the Deanery gathering at West Moors was successful. Advertising regarding the Leweston event will be issued shortly. The event will take place on 4th July, families are very welcome and they will take unaccompanied children year 6 and above.

6. Diocesan Pastoral Council Feedback

In the absence of Andrew Housley, Nancy reported that much of the last meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral Council was spent discussing the role of the Council and the pros and cons of the Bishop consulting with the Council. The Diocesan Clergy (Council of Priests) also hold a similar regular meeting with the Bishop however this meeting has a different agenda to the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Maybe they should share a more common agenda because at the moment they appear to be pulling in different directions.

7. Parish Pump

7.1 The extension for Blandford's church is on hold.

7.2 The garage at Our Lady of Fatima, Poole, has been converted into an office.

7.3 Derek reported that at Christ the King they have observed that the number of Catholic children applying to enter the school is reducing significantly even though the school's sixty places are heavily oversubscribed. The number of children making their First Communion has dropped from about 26 to 10.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 30 June 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

Father Budge will talk about the new translation of the Mass

DMB 22/4/10