

**Holy Rood Pastoral Parish Council meeting:  
Notes of Meeting  
28.05.2015**

**Present:** Marguerite Holliday MH, Camille Benony CB, Julia Arkell JBA, Mary Reeve MR, Gertrude Mwape GM, Clare Kingston CK, Ron Lawton RT, Noreen Bint NoBi, Jose Almeida JA, Canon John CJ, Father Dominic FD , Nick Barrett NiBa, Penny Lake PL, Pas Mazzotta PM, Mary Carthew, Thomas (visiting seminarian - observing), Frances Corrigan FC,

**Apologies:** Jenni Miles JM, Sr Mary SM, Pedro Barretto PB, Norman Cambray NC

**Notice:** Julia Starczewski has resigned from the PPC due to moving out of Swindon.

The meeting started with reflective music, a prayer and an extract from scripture. This was followed by an introduction and welcome by NiBa.

**Introduction and Welcome**

- In the previous meeting it was suggested that the Pastoral Parish Council should provide a forum to review the current sub group structure and look possible alternative ways to work as a group.
- We'd like to turn our attention to what God is asking us to do as a PPC.
- When preparing for this meeting Canon John , Marguerite and Nick agreed two principles to guide our thinking:
  1. we agreed that whatever we do should be a response to the Popes Apostolic Exhortation – The Joy of the Gospel
  2. we agreed that we should find a way to include a link to the Pope's Year of Mercy.
- Our feeling was that we should refine our focus onto a smaller number of activities rather than taking on lots of tasks.
- Anyone with an idea for our focus was invited to suggest their idea and answer any questions arising.

**Suggestion – Run the 'The Gift' in the parish – (Marguerite)**

- It's always been apparent that the people involved in our PPC want to do so much to develop the parish into an even more welcoming and faith filled community who serve one another and who also look out to the needs of the wider community. But it also seems to me that in our own strength and with a small number of active parishioners we very soon run out of energy. We all recognise that we need more people to carry out the work which has been the subject of these meetings over the last couple of years; and we all recognise the ongoing need for adult formation – our own and that of all in the parish. One tool for growing faith is the recently developed CaFE DVD series called The Gift - a life in the Spirit Course. For access to the resources for those thinking of leading the group please see the link to webpage noted below).
- The Gift is designed to be run by ordinary people. The sessions are DVD led with group work and have been created by the same team that created the CaFE series which have been successfully run over the last 10+ years in the parish. A training session and all the resources needed to run the course are provided, including prayer focus/ preparation for the team running it and for participants in between sessions.

- It is a course designed to facilitate growth in faith life (starting from wherever one is at). The reason to focus on this now would be that it will serve to *engage* more of our parish in carrying out our mission; so often, what is holding us back is the lack of human resource, that is, the lack of people fully engaged in their faith.
- The course is made up of 6 + 1 sessions:

The Father's Loving Plan  
 The Joy of the Gospel  
 The Gift of the Spirit  
 Unwrapping God's Gift  
 Encountering God's Spirit  
 Living in the Spirit

- It could be run in the church and some thought had already been given by the Adult Formation team as to the logistics of how this might work.
- It has been designed as a direct response to the challenge set out in the Pope's exhortation.
- The aim would be to have 75% of the parish attend over the course of a year or so so that we are all invigorated to become more involved in the life of the Church.

### **Questions and discussion**

The Parish Pastoral Council asked a number of clarification questions. Some people expressed positive responses to this idea but there were some dissenting voices too. There was a fair amount of discussion. Some specific suggestions are noted below.

JBA noted that the Adult Formation group had come to the conclusion that the Gift could only be run with a team of at least 20 regular trained leaders. She suggested an alternative strategy of getting each group in the parish, and possibly house groups as well, to undertake the 3 Proclaim 15 meetings. (For more information on proclaim 15 see link below and attached notes for first session).

PL suggested that the possibility of having a focus for PPC activity over the coming year as the "Inclusive Church" as a focus for the PPC; that the various groups and the sessions on the Gift would all be planned around inclusivity – thereby trying to break down the barriers that exist between the different cultures in the congregation. It was noted, by MH, that it is the experience of the CaFE team that the sessions need to be run by the kind of people you wish to attract – so that we will need either very highly representative teams or a variety of teams running the session on different occasions.

In the course of the discussion regarding it was proposed by No Bi that it might be a good idea to set-up a perpetual adoration of the Lord for 40 hours in the Autumn. CJ to propose some dates.

By way of taking forward an action from this meeting it was proposed by CJ and agreed by all that a session to show the PPC what The Gift is about would be organised before the summer holidays. MH to circulate some possible dates; and that more than one session would run if required.

### **AOB**

- Nick mentioned that Canon John had asked him to create a very brief after Mass

talk to address the fact that the current PPC office holders come to the end of their term soon and that more people are welcome. The point was made that as a group we need to be more ethnically representative of the Parish.

- Penny asked for the team involved on the website to include a statement regarding Safeguarding

**Next Meeting: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 19:30 please bring your diaries**

There will be three meetings a year.

Some links to The Gift and to Proclaim 15 small groups for your information

<http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/Special-Events/Proclaim-15-Building-Missionary-Parishes/Small-Groups>