

Sacred Heart Waterlooville

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on the 28th July 2011.

Father Kevin opened the meeting at 7.00pm with the reading for next Sunday and prayers.

07.11.1 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Sister Margaret, Maureen Anglaret, Nikki Ellul-Turner, Jane Standen, Richard Barclay, Elizabeth White and Joy Hastilow. Cyril Brown (chairman) reported that Julie Long had resigned from the council because other commitments made it difficult to attend meetings.

07.11.02. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the May, 2011 meeting were approved.

07.11.03. Parish Priest's Report:

Father Kevin opened his report by thanking all those in the parish who had worked so hard to make the dedication of the new church such a worthwhile occasion, though it was a pity, but understandable, that the Papal Nuncio was unable to attend. Father Kevin had received letters of appreciation from the Mayor of Havant, Councillor Ken Smith (who said the new Sacred Heart church was beautiful, inspiring and fabulous and had booked the parish centre for his local coffee mornings) and George Hollingbery, MP for the Meon Valley.

Father Kevin added that thanks had also been received from the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire Mark Radcliffe, Bishop Peter Doyle, former priest in Portsmouth city and now Bishop of Northampton and our former parish priest Tom McGrath, the Vicar General.

Father Kevin reported that his move into his new house had been delayed by the need for snagging work and inspection and subsequent official handover by the builders.

He went on to discuss using a Redemptorist Publications format for the parish newsletter. The A3 newsletter was pre-printed on one side (with colour-enhanced details of the weekend readings, proper of the mass & a homily) and left blank on the other side for insertion of parish details. It would be bigger than our current newsletter and might give scope for advertising. Father said he would bring examples to the next meeting so members could see what was on offer.

Moving to the issue of the introduction of the new missal, Father Kevin said once it had been introduced in September, it would be useful to hold a briefing evening for the parish to explore the rationale behind it. Help for parishioners would come in the form of a downloaded sheet containing the new wording, a pocket-sized fold-out version of the original booklet and 500 copies of laminated card to be retained in the church for use at masses. Christine commented that setting up an order-list for the new missals, expected to cost about £50, might be an option, though buyers would need assurance that the readings wouldn't change in the near future.

Father mentioned a change in practice for baptisms; in future he was going to baptise some children outside of mass, probably at 11.30 am on Sunday mornings, to cope with the demand for baptisms, which were running at more than 50 a year.

Cyril explained that a proposal that the parish might be reduced to just two masses had been dropped. Havant Pastoral Area Council had agreed to retain the Saturday vigil mass at Waterlooville after accepting that people living west of the A3 faced problems reaching churches in Hayling Island and Leigh Park by bus. It accepted that it did not make sense for our parish, which attracted nearly half of the Catholics living in the HPA, to have just two masses. Our HPA council members Fr. Kevin, John Farrell, Judith Hoar, and Cyril Brown (PPC) had read all the opinion forms completed by parishioners and given a thorough feedback of views. Attendees of the Saturday vigil mass had been particularly strong in their wish to see it retained. Also listed was the large development of some 2,500 new houses in Waterlooville which would bring in more parishioners.

Father Kevin cautioned that there was no guarantee for the longer term, especially if we are reduced to three priests – “We are grateful to the HPA for discussing the mass times so thoughtfully, but must accept that they are not set in stone.”

07.11.04 Parish Centre Management Committee

Discussion also covered the appointment of a caretaker for the parish centre and the need to improve arrangements in the new church for receiving communion. The centre management committee and the parish finance committee are putting together a business plan which will involve funding wages from hiring charges, obligatory contracts for certain maintenance checks and other items.

Letting contracts will include a get-out clause enabling functions to be cancelled if they clash with church services, such as funerals.

5.11.06 Dates for next meetings, 7.00pm at the New Church Centre:

8th September 2011.

27th October 2011.

8th December 2011.