

**ENGLISH MARTYRS AND ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY
MINUTES OF JOINT PARISHES PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING.
10TH JANUARY 2022.**

PRESENT: Fr Gerry (Parish Priest); Tony Sharpe (Chair, St Augustine`s); Nikki O`Neill (Secretary, English Martyrs); Karen Dinsmore; Jeni Gardner; Ann Kinghorn; Liz Tomkins.

APOLOGIES: Veronica Hollingsbee, Simon Hall and Ufuomo Bakpa;

Meeting chaired by Tony Sharpe (for Simon Hall, Chair of English Martyrs). Minutes taken by Nikki O`Neill.

1. Opening Prayer – Fr Gerry started the meeting with a reflection on Our Lady`s journey through life and how we can turn to her in our suffering and sorrows etc.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting (8/11/2021) were approved subject to the removal of Anne Houlihan`s name from the list of apologies, as Anne was no longer a member of the JPPC.

3. Matters Arising and updates from previous meeting not elsewhere on the agenda.

3.1. Into the Archives – Sharing our Story – Fr Gerry confirmed that this work and the meetings associated with it had been put on hold because of the Synodal Conversations. Therefore, the meeting with the Bishop at St Patrick`s in Brockworth on 12 February was now being used as a meeting for feedback from Parish Delegates and Facilitators to the Diocese regarding the Synod. Fr Gerry said that Sarah Adams had commented that the Diocese would return to `Share our Story` after the Synod work had been completed. However, she was not sure exactly when this would be. Therefore, those preparing for `Sharing our Story` had some breathing space. Fr Gerry was aware that both parishes were awaiting his input on the work carried out so far but he felt there was no point in addressing this at this stage as the requirements might change once it`s readdressed. He thanked all those who had been working hard to complete `Sharing Our Story` and assured them that their work would not be wasted.

There were no other matters that were not covered later by the evening`s agenda.

4. St Augustine`s 60th Anniversary.

St Augustine of Canterbury Church was built in 1962 with the first mass being said on the 30th September and then the church was blessed by Mgr Roche on 4th December of the same year. Fr Gerry added that the church had not been dedicated until 26 years later, as a church cannot be dedicated until all the debts are paid and it took that long to pay off these debts, with some help from the Diocese of Clifton. Therefore, this year would be the 60th Anniversary of the building of the church. Fr Gerry had been liaising with Ann Kinghorn and Veronica Hollingsbee about holding a celebration to mark the occasion but felt there was a need to form a group to move plans forward. A possible logical date for the celebration would be 27th May – the feast of St Augustine of Canterbury. However, 30th September would also be a good option. Fr Gerry also said that something would be done to involve English Martyrs parishioners too.

ACTION: Fr Gerry to form a group to discuss ideas with Jeni and Ann and others.

5. SYNOD.

Fr Gerry had approached Flit Rogers and Jan Ashton at English Martyrs and Paul Taylor at St Augustine's about taking on the roles of delegates and all had agreed.

Unfortunately, Paul Taylor had been unable to attend the Delegates Meeting in Bristol with Fr Gerry, Flit and Jan. Fr Gerry had also requested volunteers to help with facilitating the process but had received no additional offers of help. (Nikki O'Neill had already offered to be a Facilitator and had attended the first introductory meeting, as noted in the previous Minutes). Three others at EM had been asked and had agreed to help in the process – the personal approach is always more successful.

Fr Gerry asked Nikki to give the meeting an overview of how things were going at EM, which she did. Two groups with three sessions each were being run – Group 1 on Saturday mornings after mass and Group 2 on weekday evenings starting at 6pm. The first meeting on Saturday had just taken place and had been well attended with 3 tables of 6/7 people each. She commented that the documents provided by the Diocese were lengthy and somewhat complicated and needed interpretation to help people understand what they were being asked to do. As it was also important to get feedback from the younger generation, especially teenagers, some basic questions had been written and 27 sheets passed out on Sunday after Mass. Fr Gerry commented that something was also being organized to get feedback from our ecumenical friends in the Church in Tuffley at the next 'Refresh' meeting on 19 January. Fr Gerry said plans were in place to start a group at St Augustine's and the first meeting would be on Wednesday 19th January evening and depending on who turns up, a further two sessions would be organized.

The most important part of the Synodal process was to get people to 'listen' to each other and be non-judgemental. A summary from both parishes would have had to be completed by the next JPPC in March. Therefore, following on from the process Fr Gerry, together with the JPPC and any others, would be able to look and consider what could be done at parish level. Other more difficult areas would have to wait for The Pope's Synod in 2023 as this was beyond Fr Gerry's jurisdiction.

ACTION: Ongoing facilitation of Synodal Conversations in both Parishes.

6. Dementia Friendly Church (see notes attached).

Nikki O'Neill had attended the on-line training session and had produced some notes to inform the JPPC. Members commented that the notes were very helpful. Ann Kinghorn asked if she could laminate the notes and pass them to the St Augustine's Visiting Group and St Vincent de Paul. Jeni Gardner also said they would be very useful for the Welcoming Group and both Ann and Jeni agreed to ensure these groups received a copy. Nikki said she would ensure that Marisa Wood (Parish Administrator) and the Welcoming Team at EM also received a copy each.

ACTION: Ann Kinghorn, Jeni Gardner and Nikki O'Neill to organize distribution of Nikki's notes.

7. Parish Newsletters.

Following on from the comment made to Fr Gerry that the newsletter "looked tired and needed updating", Fr Gerry had investigated a few downloadable formats available. These included A3 pre-printed sheets on one side with A3 space for extras – all professionally done. However, this would cost money. Currently, Fr Gerry prints off 50 copies of the newsletter for each parish – the rest are sent out by email. A suggested format in colour, pre-printed would cost 10p per sheet = £10 per week (for 100 copies).

There were several suggestions including A4 folded. Members felt a survey of what people might like would be a possible way forward.

ACTION: Fr Gerry to look at possible alternatives.

8. Sacramental Preparation quick update.

a) First Holy Communion – There were now 12 candidates from St Augustine’s and 13 from English Martyrs (double the number from the previous year). They would be having their first meeting via Zoom but the following meeting in February would hopefully be face-to-face.

b) Confirmation – This would be discussed at Deanery level the following day, 11th January. Watch this space.

c) Baptism – On-going. A Baptism Preparation Course was needed but help was also needed to run such a course. Fr Gerry said if a shared course was provided across the two parishes for groups of parents, it would need to be provided consistently as this was an on-going requirement. Karen Dinsmore had offered to help run a baptism course but more volunteers were required.

9. Closing Prayer. Fr Gerry closed the meeting with a prayer.

FUTURE MEETINGS IN 2022

Wednesday 9th March at St Augustine’s.

Monday 9th May at English Martyrs

Wednesday 6th July at St Augustine’s

Thursday 8th September at English Martyrs

Signed:

Fr Gerry, Parish Priest.

Date: 9th March 2022

Signed:

Tony Sharpe. Chair, St Augustine`s.

Date: 9th March 2022