

**ENGLISH MARTYRS AND ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY
MINUTES OF JOINT PARISHES PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING.
9TH MAY 2022.**

Bishop Declan has asked that all Parish Pastoral Councils move to a "Synodal conversation format" for meetings. This means we begin with a substantial time of prayer (mostly silence) then respectfully listen to each person on the Council as we discuss particular points. This ensures all members get a chance to contribute.

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

Meeting chaired by Simon Hall. Minutes taken by Nikki O`Neill.

1. Opening Prayer – Fr Gerry opened the meeting in the church with a presentation and reading from John, Chapter 10 on the Good Shepherd. This was followed by a time of silence.

2. APOLOGIES: None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (9/03/2022) were approved by both the members of St Augustine of Canterbury and English Martyrs, as the Synodal Reports had been discussed in separate Parish groups.

4. Developments and how to progress matters suggested at 9th March meeting: Fr Gerry updated everyone on the following discussion points from St Augustine`s:

A. Tony Sharpe had brought his camera to the meeting to take photos of all JPPC Members.

B. These photos would be put onto the noticeboards in both churches, together with the Member`s name, so that JPPC Members could be identified by parishioners. The names of JPPC Members should also go onto each church`s website but there was no requirement for an accompanying photograph. Darius, at St Augustine`s, had been asked to discuss this with Phil Gibbins, Diocesan Communications Officer, in order to update both churches websites.

C. JPPC Meeting dates would be posted on noticeboards and on websites and also the Minutes of Meetings, once these had been approved and signed off. Fr Gerry asked that any JPPC Member who did not want their name to be included in the Minutes that go on display should please let him know as soon as possible.

ACTION: Any Member not wishing their name to be publicized, please inform Fr Gerry.

D. Suggestion Box is already being used at St Augustine`s – Fr Gerry was not sure if anyone had used this facility at EM. Fr Gerry confirmed that at St Augustine`s he opened the Suggestion Box along with one other nominated person. At EM there would be a similar procedure so that Fr Gerry was never the only person reading the notes/letters found in the box. Depending on the content, the suggestion would be passed to the appropriate person or group.

F. Both parishes have now had an `Open Parish Meeting` following the pandemic.

Fr Gerry was not aware of what had been achieved at English Martyrs since the last meeting, so he asked EM Members for an update:

A. Youth – Moves had been made to find helpers to supervise a Youth Club at EM and also to encourage young people of secondary school age to commit to joining the Club. Karen Dinsmore was going to talk to Mandy Baker, Chaplain at St Peter’s High School, for suggestions as to possible participants and adult volunteers. Fr Gerry asked Will Pearce what would be the difference between having a church-based Youth Group compared to one run outside the church. Will commented that he hoped the Group would eventually get involved in community projects and others commented that it would encourage ‘religious based’ friendships. After much discussion it was agreed that the young people should have the space and opportunity to develop their own programme within a parish setting providing there were enough volunteers to help with supervision. Karen Dinsmore had found information on-line about a British Heart Foundation course on Managing Youth Groups and she had put her name down to do this course. Everyone agreed that a Youth Group was something that would hopefully grow and attract more participants once it was up and running. Will Pearce was tasked with speaking to the H&S representative at EM, Ana Marie Poulet, to find out what ‘risk assessments’ would be required.

ACTION – Karen Dinsmore to speak to Mandy Baker about participants and adult helpers

ACTION – Will Pearce to speak to the EM H&S representative to find out about ‘risk assessments’ for setting up a Youth Group.

B. Improving links with local Catholic schools – It was felt that links with St Peter’s High School, which was so close to EM, should be much better than they currently were. Mandy Baker, the Chaplain at the school, was seen to be key in this regard. It was hoped that Mandy would use EM facilities more often. Members agreed it was very important to build a better relationship with her and the school. It was therefore suggested that EM put on something like a Quiz and Pizza night and invite St Peter’s young people to attend as a positive way forward. No decisions were made as to who would organize this and when.

C. Visiting the Sick and Elderly – There was no specific visiting group at EM. St Augustine’s have a visiting group but currently they had no one to visit. Fr Gerry agreed to put something in the Newsletter asking people if they wanted a visitor or if they knew someone else who did. Fr Gerry commented that it was not just the elderly who were lonely. Therefore, there might be a response from someone who is lonely and lives on their own but not necessarily sick or incapacitated. It was also suggested that a note could go into local Care Homes too, asking if anyone wanted a visitor. However, Covid rules were still in place in Care Homes, which would make it more difficult to set up visits for people there. It was agreed that anyone responding to the newsletter item would ring either Fr Gerry or Marisa Wood, Parish Administrator. The St Augustine’s Visiting Team would be informed of any requirement to visit someone and asked if they would be willing to help and also if they would be happy for their phone numbers to be used.

ACTION – Ann Kinghorn to ask the Visiting Team at St Augustine’s if they would be willing to help with any responses from the Newsletter item and if they would be happy to share their phone numbers.

D. Buddying – Karen Dinsmore explained that she had been aware of someone who was anxious about coming to church. But there was nothing more to add to the previous meeting note, it was more a question of watching out for this situation and informing the Parish Administrator or Fr Gerry so that help could be made available if required.

E. Volunteering – Nothing more to say on this as the requirement for volunteers was on-going and people need to do their best to encourage new helpers, which was already happening in some areas of church life.

Simon Hall said that due to time constraints, it was not possible to complete this Agenda item. Discussions would continue at the next meeting.

Fr Gerry stated that there was one item to cover under Any other business.

5. A.O.B. – Veronica Hollingsbee asked if the Syro-Malabar should have a representative on the JPPC. There used to be someone representing this group in the past. Fr Gerry agreed to speak to the Syro-Malabar to see if they would like to have a new representative on the JPPC.

ACTION – Fr Gerry to contact the Syro-Malabar and ask them if they wanted to nominate someone to represent them on the JPPC.

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

FUTURE MEETINGS IN 2022

Wednesday 6th July at St Augustine's

Thursday 8th September at English Martyrs

Signed:

Fr Gerry, Parish Priest.

Date:

Signed:

Simon Hall, Chair of English Martyrs.

Date: