

MALAHIDE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Notes of meeting of 6th. May 2010

Attendance: Fr. G. Tanham, Fr. P. Thornton, Sr. Margaret, Charlie Farrell, Jo Morris, John Lynch, Pauline Lynch, Oliver Whelan, Daphney Green, Regina MacCarrick, Joan Reynolds.

Apologies: Joe McDonnell, Bob Rooney, Jean Houghton.

Minutes: As read.

Correspondence: A letter from YCW with details of issues of importance and programmes and projects of interest to 16 – 18 year olds. Information leaflet given to Regina as this may be of interest to YYAM, Charlie said if a meeting with YCW was arranged we would be interested in going along.

Deanery Meeting - Murphy Report: Charlie said there was no time to ask questions as we had hoped to do. There were only four questions allowed, ours, Yellow Walls and two others from the rest of the Deanery. When asked about the responsibility of the Vatican Archbishop Martin said it was not the responsibility of the Vatican, it was an Irish problem and should be fixed in Ireland, this took Charlie by surprise, he asked what is the Diocese going to do, we have not had an internal investigation, what message will we get, what corrections. The Archbishop did not disagree with us. Regina concurred that there was very little time allowed to ask questions. She was shocked to hear that people were formally applying to be disassociated from the Church. Fr. Paul said that other Parishes had not dealt with the Murphy report as we had, 8 – 9 other Parishes had not done anything about it. Regina said that the fact that things were done differently from Parish to Parish is a huge reputational risk for the Church in general, it means that even if one Parish is going about something the correct way all it takes is a problem to arise in another Parish and the whole Church is tarred with the one brush. Fr. Paul said that the Diocesan Pastoral Council is under consideration in Archbishop House. Fr. Tanham said our letter to the Archbishop named new structures that the Church should be tackling but the Archbishop's response letter was very limited, he said there has not been a Church response to the Murphy report, there should be an independent enquiry as has taken place with the Banks problem. John said we had discussed having a further meeting with the Parishioners, Fr. Tanham said it was fruitless to consult with them at the moment as we do not have a lot to report, there are some issues still outstanding, wait until it is completed, it may be a year before there is anything to report. In the meantime put something substantial on the web and in the bulletin.

Deanery Meeting - Boundaries: Charlie said that we have done a lot of practical things already with Yellow Walls Parish, combined retreat in both Parishes, Baptism and Bereavement groups in both Parishes have merged, joint public meeting on Murphy report, Good Friday Stations between both Churches, Justice and Peace covers both Parishes, constant interaction at Chairman level between both Parish Pastoral Councils.

Some of the other Parish clusters don't seem to have worked that well, in the past two years there has only been two meetings held where the Officers of all the Pastoral Councils could meet together. Charlie said that because of the shortage of Priests we have to address this question of clustering. Fr. Tanham reported that there had been a subsequent meeting of the clergy and for historical reasons Kinsealy want to be with us not with Portmarnock, Donnaghmede and Airfield. He said that if we had Yellow Walls, Kinsealy, Waterside and two other small estates this side of the motorway we would have approx 20,000 parishioners with maybe three Priests rather than four. If Portmarnock or Kinsealy joined us it would mean a change of Deanery. John said Portmarnock has a physical nearness to Malahide and Malahide people go to Mass there. A word of caution from Fr. Tanham – Kinsealy has a very old Church and a very small school and that whole area could have major development, John said we should not be put off by development. Fr. Paul said there will not be any Catholic school built in that area but may be a VEC primary school and a secondary school, he also said if we remain as just Malahide and Yellow Walls we very quickly go to just two Priests and a possible retired Priest. There will be a meeting on 12th May with all Parish staff, Chairs and Secretaries of each Parish Pastoral Council. The Archbishop wants a decision after the meeting but it would be important to make the correct decision, wait and not rush, Fr. Tanham said the clergy say it is too rushed, the Archbishop is aware that mistakes will be made but iron them out as you go. John said there is a lot to be said for showing a welcome to all as you may or may not end up with them anyway. The cluster most favoured by the meeting was Malahide, Yellow Walls, Kinsealy and Waterside.

Prayer: Daphney led us in prayer. Joan to do prayer next month.

Parish Centre: John reported that planning permission was granted on 5th May. A meeting has already taken place with Architect Sean Harrington where he presented the project group with a progress of design document. There is a lot of work to do before we go to tender which could take up to seven months. We have to re estimate the cost of building the Centre in light of the recession. We will have to address the question of temporary sacristy, office, toilets and if the Hall will be in use or not, Sr. Margaret said that users of the Hall will need good notice if the Hall will not be available. Fr. Tanham said we have €3.7 million in the bank, we have already paid our 300,000.

Parish Groups outstanding meetings and Parish Day: We still have not had a meeting with some of our Parish groups. Fr. Paul said that some of those groups are going to be effected by our building plans so may be we should leave meeting with them until September. Fr. Tanham said if we had our planned day in Emmaus we could use that day to meet with them, he suggested we have a good speaker – Eamonn Conway, Eugene Duffy or Fr. Dermot Lane. Saturday 12th June suggested and Fr. Tanham to book a speaker.

Parish Activities: Preparation for 140 children for First Holy Communion will take place during May.

Newsletter; Fr. Paul showed us a sample of an improved newsletter, look at it and come back with comments.

Begging; Fr. Paul reported on an incident brought to his attention by a parishioner of a child begging outside the Church gate. This was a Romanian child, it was reported to the Gardai and our Child Protection Officers Anne Lyons and Alan Markey were also informed. Crosscare were also informed, they have a project where they look after all Romanians in Ireland, it is against the law to have a child begging but it is the culture of Romanians to beg. RSPCC have a support group called Leanabh, our Child Protection Officers will keep in touch with Leanabh and with this situation.

Liturgy; A children's choir is to be formed under the leadership of Aideen O'Rourke and Marcella Cox, Therese Lawlor will also help, Maura McManus is delighted and will help in any way she can.

Faith Course; An ecumenical course on growing in our Faith will be set up again by September, more information to come on this.

Crib Team; The crib statues need to be painted, the team will move the statues to Chalfont where they can work on them.

Web Site; Oliver said we agreed to publish the PPC minutes on the web, this was done once but we apologize that it was not done since, we will rectify this.

A. O. B.: Charlie reported the Fr. Tanham's nine years in our Parish could come to an end this Summer. Charlie had drafted a letter to send to the Archbishop stating reasons why he should be left with us. Yellow Walls Pastoral Council have already sent a letter to the Archbishop.

Next meeting 3rd. June