



Pastoral Care Fr Michael Brandon.

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Notes from a meeting held in relation to the formation of a Parish Forum on Tuesday 29th November, 2011.

Present: Father Michael Brandon, fourteen parishioners.

Peter O'Brien was suggested as Chairman for the meeting and distributed a loose list of items of note for discussion. Peter suggested we should concentrate on what we wanted the Forum to do rather than who should be on the forum. He pointed out that we expected our Parish Priests to be our spiritual leaders and then made it difficult for them to carry out this role by burdening them with administrative responsibilities. He observed that when the Parish has a Priest appointed he will have to share his responsibilities with the university and it may be that such a person may spend most of his time ministering to the university students.

The Chairman asked us to consider the proposed responsibilities from the list.

1. Provision, practical and administrative organisation.

The point was accepted. Turning to the other four areas the Forum might address.

2. Supporting the clergy in the spiritual development of the Parish.
3. Pastoral support of members of the Parish.
4. Promoting unity and co-operation across the whole parish community.
5. Helping the parish demonstrate its faith to the wider community.

A general feeling however was that it should be responsible in a facilitative way for all these items. A discussion followed on point 5 above, which of course is particularly relevant to our Parish due to our relationship with the Ordinariate. There was some comments about the way the Ordinariate had been introduced to us, but there was general agreement that we should actively signify welcome to the Ordinariate and make sure that they became aware that they were welcome as Parishioners (albeit with a distinct identity) rather than just as church sharers.

The Chair suggested the Parish Forum should not take financial management responsibilities away from the Financial Committee. It was felt the Forum should not separate itself from financial matters, and that it would need to be represented on such a Forum. Significant concerns were expressed about financial affairs generally but it was felt they should be more significantly addressed by the Finance Committee.

The Chair suggested that we had to move forward and specifically that the Diocese should be asked to attend a meeting. Father Michael said the Diocese was in favour of Parish Forum though an incoming Parish Priest would have overall authority in this matter.

It was suggested the Chair explain the provisions reached by those attending the meeting to the Parish generally and suggest a date post-Christmas for the first meeting of the Forum.

There were it was agreed some action that could take place immediately, i.e. hall committee fund raising, heating problems, kitchen hygiene etc. It was agreed that we would invite the Parish on the 11th December to attend the first meeting of the Forum at which six traditional Parishioners would be identified and hopefully elected to join the two Priests and two members of the Ordinariate to form a 10 person (approximately) Forum at which roles could be identified and practical decisions made. It was suggested that the meeting should be on the 23rd January 2012 at 7.30pm. The Chair asked people present to spread the word that we should actively feed in our suggestions in the meantime and the meeting was concluded at 21.30 hours.

On the other side is a list of what activities there are as well as some that could exist.

Next meeting Monday 23rd January 2012 at 7.30pm

Please try to attend to support our Parish

