

**St. Teilo's with Our Lady of Lourdes
Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, June 28th 2022
at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall**

Present:

President
Mgr. Robert Reardon

Claudiu Bulai	Angela Jones
Paul Doherty	Gerry Lewis
Marcia Fortner	David Roblin
Clare Gallagher	Madeleine Walters

Gill Kane

Clare Gallagher, Vice-Chair, chaired the meeting in Carole's absence.
Madeleine Walters took the Minutes in Anthony's absence.

Welcome – Vice Chair

Clare welcomed Mgr. Reardon who had returned to deliver his talk a second time for the benefit of those members who had not been present at the May 24th meeting.

1. Mgr.'s Talk

Before he began his talk, Mgr. commented on the very good account of his talk in the last Minutes.

He then started with a reading of 1 Cor 12. He said that different times need different gifts. The gifts needed today could include the ability to reach out to young people, the skill of fund-raising or a knowledge of computers and technology.

He went on to say that the original guidelines drawn up for a PC were no longer relevant. What is needed now is the recovery of the characteristics of the Church. Synodality is about the process of being Church. This is a product of the Second Vatican Council. The characteristics of this Council were far less dogmatic in tone than previous Councils. Much has been lost.

The Parish Council is not a committee. Its purpose is to discern the Mission of the Church and to place its gifts at the service of the community.

The Parish Council is an example of co-responsible leadership.

- The PC does not run or lead the parish
- The PC develops a sense of mission

- The PC has a leadership role in the parish
- The function of this leadership is to enable the parish to achieve its purpose

Mission is NOT about self-preservation or restoration i.e. the restoring of things from the past because they are familiar. Mission is about encounter, engagement and dialogue in the community. The PC needs to unpick what 'Mission' is in relation to the parish.

A word that is often used is 'evangelisation'. This is not about putting 'bums on seats' but of actually bringing people to faith. We can sow the seeds in encounters and engagements but we do not always see the results.

Reference to 5 P's

1. **Participation** - enabling each and every member of the parish to participate by the contribution of their gifts. These should be discerned in the individual.
2. **Pastoral** - the Parish Council should be a caring and listening presence, encouraging the faith and life of the community.
3. **Planning** - The PC is not to plan for the parish but with the parish, exploring how things can develop by means of the following:
 - A Mission Statement will recognise the realities of the parish in time
 - Goals that are achievable
 - Clearly defined tasks
 - Realistic planning, not ideas

The parish must have ownership of any planning.

4. **Partnership** - this is essential and must be inclusive, involving lay people and clergy, young and old; it must recognise the age and health profile; it must include the LGBT and divorced, to name but a few groups. There will not be real partnership if there is exclusivity.
5. **Prayer** - what is God calling us to do? This will come from prayer in the Spirit. Discernment will only occur through inspiration from the Holy Spirit.

Development of a Pastoral Plan

Distinct stages:

1. Discernment of priorities

Where are the opportunities for encounter?

Where are the opportunities for discerning Christ?

Who is going to discern the priorities for St. Teilo's?

2. Development stage

There is a need to agree the steps to reaching whatever goals have been determined.

3. Implementation

The plan cannot be implemented in isolation. Drawing others into the work will be needed at this stage.

The PC must develop these skills: listening, discernment, drawing in others.

There are implications in all this for the Agenda of the Parish Council. It will all take a while, even up to twelve months. At all stages, the parish has to be involved. The day-to-day matters of the parish are for others.

The focus of the Parish Council is pastoral planning. This is a process, a development, a movement. The work of the PC does not happen in the meeting itself.

It is about what is done between meetings. There are various ways in which this can be done. Mgr. Reardon quoted the methods used by Citizens Cymru Wales. One method involves one person talking to ten people or groups of people. Listening is important. There is a need to include talking to vulnerable people and young people. There are implications here for safeguarding and DBS.

- A Pastoral Plan will lead to pastoral activity. Attention needs to be always on the bigger picture.
- Pastoral Planning needs to be done with the people not for the people. This should build unity and purpose. The Planning should be owned by the parish.
- The work of the PC should be communicated to the parish step by step., stage by stage.
- There should be an annual Assembly where Pastoral Plans are discussed. Realities are more important than ideas.
- The demographics of the parish will shape the Plan, for example, the proportions of children who are on free school meals.
- The Synodal process needs a different mindset; change will take a while.

Mgr. Reardon mentioned an extra P – **Patience**. He said that this was required because Pastoral Planning and the realisation of Synodality are processes that will take time. He said that journeying together is part of the fulfilment of what pastoral planning is about. There is a need to launch out into the deep, into what is unknown, into a different territory.

What are the signs of growth in a parish?

- The parish begins to practise synodality
- Teams of ministry flourish
- There is an exchange of conversation in the community.

Angela said that the pandemic had taught us what we can do.

Space needs to be provided for people to talk. The PC is not there to manage crises. Paul reinforced the need for patience.

In his concluding thoughts, Mgr. Reardon said that careful thought needs to be given to producing a Pastoral Plan which is mission based. He said there were sections in

Evangelii Gaudium which are very relevant to the PC and to the Mission of the Church, grounded in reality. He also mentioned Fratelli Tutti.

Clare thanked Mgr. Reardon for his valuable and insightful talk. Mgr. Reardon thanked Clare in turn and wished everyone well, before leaving the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Canon John, Carole Burns and Anthony Evans.

3. Ratification of the Minutes of the May 24th

It was agreed that the Minutes were a true record of the previous meeting.

4. Matters Arising – Vice Chair

- **Proofreading**

Madeleine said that she thought the Minutes needed to be proofread before being sent out to members and before appearing on the website, a public domain. Clare asked her if she would be prepared to do this and Madeleine agreed.

Inserted Note: by Secretary - It was subsequently agreed that all members would be responsible for proofreading the draft minutes.

- **Children's Liturgy**

Angela said that this had been running for six or seven weeks. The previous Sunday had seen a dearth of numbers, just four on that Sunday. The highest number has been 9 and the lowest was 1. She said it was building very slowly. She thought there were far less people in Church but it was building very slowly and will continue until the end of term. Angela said that she had a great team of helpers. She thought the time of Mass had made a great difference. The leaders and helpers continue to watch and monitor the situation and keep praying for more children. David asked whether it would be a good idea to go into school. Two members of the Council mentioned that the pandemic had affected their children as the dynamics had changed and they did not always want to go to Mass.

- **Baptism Course**

This has now been set up.

- **Wellbeing and Fitness**

Ongoing - Carole to update on her return

- **Bereavement Group**

- Gill said that this group has had a meeting. There is going to be a course for the group which will prepare the members for delivering the course to bereaved parishioners.

- **Setting up the Christmas Crib**

Marcia said it was fine for her family to set this up.

Madeleine said that Gail had also expressed the wish to give up the Easter Garden as well. Marcia said that that would probably be alright.

5. Financial Report - David Roblin

David shared the figures with Council members but said that the Report had not yet been approved, so cannot be included in the Minutes..

6. Synodal/Outreach Report - Gill Kane

- Gill reported that 47 parishioners from St. Teilo's and OLOL had signed the lists to offer to help in one of the categories.
- People had made quilts; one person had made a quilt to be raffled.
- It was intended to identify a group of students to help with the packing of food parcels. It might be worth linking up with the Welsh Bac Co-ordinator to see if some of the students might want to do their volunteer hours in this work.
- The school opposite OLOL Church has the numbers of children on free school meals and those with additional learning needs, higher than the national average.
- Madeleine added a comment on Evangelisation. A Mission was planned for Cardiff based at the Cathedral from August 8th-10th. The evangelisation programme, Spread the Gospel – Developing a Missionary Parish, which was designed by the Commission, is currently being prepared for publication. It is intended that this will make it possible for it to be delivered in parishes.

7. Health and Safety – Paul Doherty

- Paul said that there were no issues. Inspections were happening.
- Paul was going to do a course on defibrillators.
- The viability of having a defibrillator at St. Teilo's was being considered.

8. Safeguarding – Gerry Lewis

Gerry said that he had to start from scratch, with Gill, the bereavement group and others. There will be the question of DBS in the Outreach Programme too.

9. Any Other Business – Vice Chair

Exploring FORMED

This has been widely published in recent newsletters. It was suggested that Canon John and Madeleine would promote this further. This will be discussed again.

10. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set after the meeting and will be at 7pm on Tuesday, September 6th.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm