

Tynemouth Priory Partnership Development Group

Minutes of the meeting held at St Mary's Cullercoats 15th November 2017

Present: Mgr. Faley, Fr Chris Hughes, Fr John McElhone, Fr Martin Stempczyk, Fr. David Smith, Deacon Terry McGann, Theresa Anderson, Pat Brennan, Sheelagh Cassidy, Bill Crumbley, Andrea Hall, Andrew James, Joe James, Andy Merchant, Alan Muir, Terry O'Brien, Damian O'Connor, Lynne O'Hare, Ian Pearson (Ch), Michael Thompson, Michael Wade.

Apologies for absence were received from David Leane and Rebecca Leighton.

Mgr Faley opened the meeting with a prayer.

Ian Pearson (Chair) welcomed the members of the Finance Committee. Mgr Faley added the Group's welcome to Fr David Smith, incoming parish priest of St Columba's, Wallsend, and also of St Anthony's, Walker, which is in the neighbouring Partnership, and to Alan Muir, joining the PDG as a Finance member.

Minutes of the previous (18th October) were accepted as accurate.

Finance Committee: Mgr Faley circulated copies of the Diocesan Guidelines for Partnership Finance Committees. Committees are to include lay people appointed by the priests. These people are to be members of the PDG but will hold separate Finance meetings. The first meeting of the Finance Committee was arranged for 20th December at St Cuthbert's North Shields, at 6.00 pm to precede the PDG meeting at 7.00 pm.

Partnership Advent Penitential Service: this is to be held on 19th December at 7.00 pm at St Edward's, Whitley Bay. Andy Merchant offered to look into the possibility of St Thomas More Academy students providing suitable music.

Weekend Mass times: Mgr Faley reported that the Bishop has made it clear that as from the first week of Advent (Dec 3rd) there will only be one Sunday Mass in each of St Columba's Wallsend and St Anthony's Walker. This will necessarily affect Mass times in the rest of both partnerships. A similar change will take place in St Aidan's, St Cuthbert's and St Joseph's, although the need for change in those three parishes is less urgent. At present there are thirteen weekend Masses in the Partnership. The Bishop's decision would reduce this to ten. A reduced number of Vigil Masses would be retained. Mgr Faley will attend the St Columba's advisory group meeting on 16th November to initiate the process.

Fr Hughes suggested to the meeting that these changes offer an opportunity for increased cohesion within the parishes, drawing the people together into one large congregation rather than two small ones.

It was recognised that there was a danger of a falling off of attendance, and that the importance of Sunday Mass attendance should be emphasised during this period of change.

Next meeting: St Cuthbert's, North Shields on 20th December at 7.00 pm, following a Finance Committee meeting at 6.00 pm. On the agenda will be the self-appraisal of our strengths and challenges as parishes and our gifts as individuals, with a view to

- 1) assessing how these can best be used for the good of the partnership and
- 2) forming a mission statement and plan of action for the development of the partnership as a living and effective local church.