



Minutes of Partnership Development Group Meeting

8th January 2020

Sacred Heart, Boldon

In attendance: Fr John Gibbons, Dean, Michael Wiblin, St Bede's (Jarrow), John Hardy, Sacred Heart (Chair), Louise Dolphin, St Joseph's, Patricia Alexander, (minute taker), Terry Fitzpatrick, St Oswald's, Angela Boyle, St Matthews, Catherine Elliott, St Bede's (South Shields), Patricia Stenhouse, St. Mary's, Katherine Wilson, St Aloysius and St James, Fr Adrian Dixon, Jarrow, Deacon Peter Jones, St Aloysius & St James, Tracey Mienie, St Peter & St Paul, Fr Simon Weymes, Hebburn, Deacon Kevin Atkinson, Jarrow, Paul Given, Secondary School Rep, Moya Rooney, Primary School Rep.

Guests in attendance for the Business of Meeting: Philip Salkeld, Youth Ministry Team, Colette McDiarmid, St Wilfred's.

Apologies: Fr Michael Weymes, South Shields, Sr Mary Lees, Fr Robert Kinlen, South Shields, Fr Saji Thottathil, Jarrow, Tony Whalen, St Gregory's

The meeting was opened with a gospel reading by Deacon Peter Jones

BUSINESS OF MEETING

Youth

Philip Salkeld, Youth Ministry Team gave an update on team activities. They are celebrating their 25th Anniversary this year. They do not just want to concentrate on one off events and school missions. They want to reach every catholic pupil who is in catholic education.

The Source which runs at St Mary's Cathedral four times a year is very successful. Surprisingly it is the quiet prayer and silence which gets the most response from the young people involved.

Transcend is a discipleship programme. There are currently 30 young people from across the Diocese who are growing in faith together. Young people often feel isolated and lonely in their own parishes so it is good to feel part of a group of like minded and similar aged youths.

All activities are free but YMT are looking for commitment from the individual and also their parents to ensure they can attend the events.

Bede Partnership is not well represented in these activities so would be good to see how the PDG can support attracting more youths to get involved.

There is the Youth Council with representatives from across parishes and schools. They have access to the Bishop and he is keen for members of the Youth Council to be involved in PDG's. There are currently four PDG's with youth representatives. Representatives from both St Joseph's and St Wilfred's attend the Youth Council.

If required members of the YMT can come to speak with small groups of young people in parishes to encourage them not to be afraid to live their faith and seek formation.

The JP2 award (which has a cost) is about faith in action. Looking for quality young people and very successful with small groups.

There is a real need to have adults supporting young people.

In terms of resources YMT has the Youth Village which is now 10 years old. It is a 90 bed centre and schools have really invested in the resource.

The Primary Festival for 3,000 always sells out really quickly and will run again this year as will the Secondary Festival.

YMT feel preparation for confirmation needs a lot of work and they are available to support programmes if needed.

Kevin Atkinson, Deacon and youth co-ordinator highlighted the need for every parish to have at least one adult who supports young people in the parish and walks alongside them in their journey of faith.

Need to be better at communicating events and encouraging involvement. It does not work by just having something in the bulletin. The event at St Josephs during Advent had only 8 attendees when resources had been prepared for 200.

We need to find ways of enabling young people to access and attend event by preparing in advance and possibly providing transport.

Michael Wiblin updated on The Event which has been running successfully for 4-5 years. There were over 100 attendees aged between 7 and 12. It was supported by 6th Form pupils from St Joseph's who also benefitted from the experience. The children were engrossed in silence, prayer and activities.

How can we encourage youth's from Bede Partnership to get involved?

Moya Rooney, Primary School representative questioned what the PDG want from the schools. She feels internally schools are already doing all they can.

In conjunction with the other primary heads and the clergy in Jarrow they are bringing together on 9th January 3/4 children from all four schools to form a parish council. They want them to share what is going well in their opinion and hear what types of activities they want to be involved with.

One of the major challenges is how do we keep the interest in attending mass after they make their First Holy Communion as they seem to drift away.

Maybe we need more PDG celebrations and events as unsure that children know what Bede Partnership actually is.

If we can engage and get children involved at Primary age then that will hopefully carry on into Secondary school.

Collette McDiarmid, St Wilfred's, formation of the children needs to be a partnership between parish/home/school. For most children and youths today school is their only relationship with faith.

All pupils in the school do RE up to, and including, year 13.

The value of a full time Chaplain cannot be understated and St Wilfred's currently only have access to a Chaplain two days a week.

There is no doubt that the children have a deep spirituality about them.

Formal religion is lost to parents and even grandparents so difficult for children to engage outside of school.

Paul Given, Secondary School representative highlighted that St Wilfred's publicise events and weekday masses but they cannot get the children to attend.

In 1980's there were probably 80-90 at mass and also at Stations of the Cross but now attendance is very low.

Year 7,9,12 and 13 love the Youth Village experience so need to find a way of harnessing that to keep the interest alive.

There was a commitment that there would be a representative from St Wilfred's at future PDG meetings.

Fr John suggested there is too much emphasis on the mass. Cannot impose as we live in a different society today where parents and grandparents don't engage. Children do have a gift for prayer and spirituality.

Maybe it would work better with one mass per term with preparation through prayer during the term.

Actions:

1. Need to find one person in each parish to be the youth link. Need to define role.
A sub group will be set up to prepare an outline of the role Tracey, Kevin and Katherine volunteered to be involved.
Action: Sub group to meet and send the role definition to Patricia to circulate
2. How can we get more year 5 to 8's to attend The Event? How can PDG support this activity?
3. Offer from PDG members to make themselves available to go into schools to explain the Bede Partnership and also to attend the Youth Parish Council being trialled in Jarrow if required.

It was agreed that the Business of the next meeting would be focussed on Liturgy.

Action: PDG members to bring the liturgy assessment for their parish.

http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/liturgical_formation/liturgical_formation.php

OTHER ITEMS

Newsletter

It was agreed the Newsletters would be distributed at Pentecost and Christ the King.

All parishes need to be prepared to submit an article

Action: PDG members to bring an idea for an article to the next meeting

Lenten and Easter Services

A handout will be prepared with all activities over Lent and Easter across the Partnership ordered by date and time.

Action: Send all activities to Patricia by 7th February

Year of the Word

Tracey Mienie highlighted the availability of an APP which provides a new reading every day.

Here is the link <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/lectio-365/id1483974820> available on Android too.

Father Adrian will send details of his plans for a series of events around the Word.

Action: Fr. Adrian to send details to Patricia to circulate

Patronal Feasts

It was agreed the list of Partnership Masses could be distributed with the Lenten and Easter Programme

The following are the dates and times

St Joseph's, Jarrow

Friday 1st May

10am

St Bede's, Jarrow & South Shields	Saturday 23 rd May	9am at St Paul's
Sacred Heart	Friday 19 th June	7pm
St Aloysius	Saturday 20 th June	10am
St James	Saturday 25 th July	10am
St Peter & Paul	to be provided	
St Oswald's	Monday 3 rd August	9am
St Mary's	Thursday 13 th August	6.30pm
St Gregory's	Thursday 3 rd September	6.30pm
St Matthews	Monday 21 st September	10am

Action: Tracey Mienie to contact Fr Kinlen for a date for St Peter and Paul

Minutes of Meeting 6th November 2019 – had been circulated and matters arising discussed. The minutes were approved.

Report from FPG- There had not been a meeting since November so nothing to report

Property and Community Review- no further information

Items for Sharing to be prepared by the Chair

Youth discussions and actions

AOB

It was agreed to pay the £120 cost for the JP2 award for Bede Partnership participants.

Action: John Hardy to pass approved invoice to David Smith for payment

Some issues were raised around the adverse publicity concerning the condition of the Holy Rosary building which had been reported in the Shields Gazette. It was felt that the Diocese had not responded well to the publicity and more action was needed. It was felt that the PDG should express their concern to the Diocese.

Action: John Hardy to send email on behalf of the PDG to the Diocese

Date of Next Meetings:

Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 7pm at Sacred Heart

Wednesday 6th May 2020 at 7pm at Sacred Heart

Wednesday 1st July 2020 at 7pm at Sacred Heart

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Signed by Chair

John Hardy