

Sacred Heart and St Antony's Joint Parishes Pastoral Council
Minutes of Meeting
Sunday 6th March 2016

Present: **Priest of the Parishes**
Mgr Bernard Massey

Sacred Heart

Christine Cronin, Jane Dyer (Minutes), David Gabriel, Fiona McDonald, Chris Menzies (Chair), Jacek Miotla, Gill Preisner, Frank Tothill.

1 Opening Prayer

Chris opened the meeting with the Proclaim 15 prayer.

2 Apologies for absence

Dee Coleman, Elaine Coulthard, Petronella Mason, Fr Rupert.

3 Pastoral Plan

The meeting had been convened to discuss '*A Step towards creating a Pastoral Plan for our Parishes*' as outlined by Chris at the previous meeting held 7th February.

To this end, David Culley had been invited to talk to the PPC about the Proclaim 15 initiative. This had been formulated as a result of the Bishops' response to Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, '*Evangelii Gaudium*'. David had attended the Proclaim 15 Conference in Birmingham held last summer which had been organised to offer practical advice and support to enable us to become missionary parishes. As a result of this conference, he had put forward some thoughts as to how the parish could best answer this call to mission in a letter circulated to PPC members.

David began by speaking of evangelisation and asked how we (as a parish) could reach out to the wider community. To this end, he had prepared a 'flowchart' on '*Building Missionary Parishes*' and discussion took place on the points raised therein which were based on quotes taken from '*Evangelii Gaudium*'. It was agreed that many parishioners are already involved in projects which involve reaching out to others; however, we all have a responsibility to witness and to this end we need to come together as a community united in the work of evangelisation. There is a need to look at where God is calling us as a community and to follow that call: social events are an excellent unifier but we need to come together in prayer as well.

After discussion it was decided in the first instance to:

- set up a Bible Study Group – Chris had sourced a 12 week course which might be suitable.
- start a Prayer Group – Chris and David would look at how best to take this forward.
- produce a Parish Prayer which would be given to all parishioners and which would be said at the start of all parish events.
- consider having Prayer Time in church between Sunday Masses.
- reflect on possible ideas for a Parish Project.

4 Dates of Next Meetings

- It was agreed to meet again to look at how things are progressing regarding the 'Pastoral Plan' and a date was fixed for Sunday, September 18th.
- The next 'ordinary' meeting will be held on Sunday, April 17th.

5 Closing Prayer

Chris closed the meeting with prayers and thanked David for coming to the meeting and sharing his ideas.