

## **Dorset Deanery Pastoral Forum**

### **Notes of the meeting held in Dorchester on Wednesday 22 September 2010**

#### **Present:**

Father Martin Budge VF – Dean of Dorset - (Chair) Our Lady's, Marnhull  
David McIlvenna - Our Lady Star of the Sea, Weymouth  
Paul Gillings - St Josephs Poole  
Helen Scally - St Catherine's Wimborne  
Father Barry Hallett - St Josephs Poole  
Deacon Geoffrey Carey – Our Lady Star of the Sea, Weymouth  
Pat Haddon – St Mary and St Catherine, Bridport  
Father Stephen Geddes – Our Lady Star of the Sea, Weymouth  
Derek Russell – Holy Family, Bournemouth  
Carmelita Davey – Our Lady of Fatima, Parkstone, Poole  
Bill Davey – Our Lady of Fatima, Parkstone, Poole  
Joan Poole - St Mary's, Poole  
Margaret Gibson (Diocesan Inter Faith Rep) St Boniface, Crediton  
Judith Williams – (Admin Secretary) - St Mary's, Poole  
Vernon Welch – (Minutes Secretary) Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Joseph's, Wool

**Apologies:** Canon Peter Webb, Reg Grimston, Deacon Michael Hughes, Fr Rodney Schofield, Dorothy Brant, Helen Barnes, Deacon James Mackain-Bremner, Judith Boichot, Fr Mark Skelton, Andrew Housely

Father Budge opened the meeting with a prayer.

#### **1. Minutes of Prior Meeting (30 June) and Matters Arising - None**

#### **2. Presentation by the diocesan inter faith representative Margaret Gibson**

2.1 Margaret delivered an interesting presentation on the Catholic position in relation to other Faiths and the need for peaceful co existence and dialogue with other Faiths which might be summarised by the quote from the Vatican Council Nostra Aetate -

‘The Catholic Church rejects nothing of those things which are true and holy in these religions. It regards with respect those ways of acting and living and those precepts and teaching which, though often at variance with what it holds and expounds, frequently reflect a ray of that truth which enlightens everyone.’

This would be seen to encompass both Christian and other Faiths which was further emphasised during the recent Papal Visit. Schools are now obliged to teach an understanding of two other faiths. In studying the Jewish roots of our Christianity we would come to a better understanding of ourselves.

Further information on matters relating to Peace and Justice are contained in the Diocesan Web site and also on the Interfaith Network UK [www.interfaith.org.uk](http://www.interfaith.org.uk)

There is now a recognised need of each other, both Christian and Others, in Theological Social Action, Friendship, Multi Faith Worship and Prayer. All of these should develop a confidence in our own faith. The Papal Visit had raised awareness that ‘Civilisation was now at a Cross Roads’ with Media fuelling discord and ‘Fundamentalism’. Religions must work together for the common good.

2.2 Father Budge in thanking Margaret for her presentation commented that the Papal visit was an excellent example of a coming together with the various speakers including the Chief Rabbi, the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Arch Bishop of Canterbury all concentrating on what we have to share in common. It is necessary to recognise what is ‘Fundamental’ as opposed to ‘Fundamentalism’ in order to be able to come together; this stressed the importance of each Parish having an Ecumenical Representative, such as on the Churches Together forums.

Further information is contained in a booklet issued as a teaching document of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, entitled 'Meeting God in Friend and Stranger' Fostering respect and mutual understanding between the religions. Published by the Catholic Truth Society. A limited number of these books were available to those representatives present.

### **3. Parish reorganisation and plans.**

Father Geddes said that this item was down for discussion at the forthcoming Deanery meeting for Clergy and he was therefore unable to comment further.

Father Budge said that it had now been decided that if with the permission of the Bishop, a Priest who was fit and able, would now be able to perform a maximum of three masses on a Sunday.

### **4. Dorset Youth Forum**

4.1 Deacon Geoffrey Carey said he will be replacing Nancy Brook who has resigned as representative; he was unable to report anything until after the next meeting.

4.2 Father Hallett raised the problem caused by Rebecca Barber, who was the Diocesan Youth Advisor, being transferred to another position attached to David Wells' Department of Formation. There is now no Youth Worker in our area. This led to a general discussion which concluded that a letter should be sent on behalf of the Forum to Father Gerard Wilberforce, Episcopal Vicar for Formation, expressing our concerns as to the difficulties that the loss of a Youth Advisor would cause, 'Without youth there will be no Church'. Judith agreed to send an appropriate letter.

### **5. Diocesan Pastoral Council – Nothing to report.**

### **6. Deanery Pastoral Forum**

6.1 Father Budge wished to express his thanks for the work of Nigel Waite (not present) who had resigned from his position as Chairman of the Deanery Pastoral Forum; he described him as an excellent Chairman and as a result had created our forum into an effective body.

6.2 Format - Father Budge posed the question as to what should be the function of the Deanery Pastoral Forum. Nigel had drawn up a list of activities some of which he thought should now be amended to reflect the fact that we were not a 'Consultative' body and had no executive powers. We are a sounding board or better expressed as an assembly of concerned parishioners within the Deanery.

6.3 It was decided that three meetings would be sufficient in a year for the forum.

6.4 Chairman – Father Budge was of the opinion that this position would be best fulfilled by a lay person. Considerable thought should be given to finding a suitable person for election at the next meeting, either by being able to nominate such a person or perhaps a person would willing to come forward to place him/herself for election.

### **7. Parish pump – no news.**

### **8. AOB**

Father Budge announced that there would be Bishop's Visitation in October. He also mentioned the following appointments: Father Richard Myer to Bridport, Mrs. Robert Draper to Sherborne. Nick Johnson to be ordained as Deacon at Poole.

### **9. Date of Next Meeting**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 7.30 p.m.**