

**Blessed Robert Grissold**  
**Parish Pastoral Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting Held 7<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

**Present:** Fr Sebastian, Chris Burleigh, Ian Clarke, Margaret Collins, Ann Dodd, Joe Martin.

Apologies: Dominic Green.

The meeting opened with a short prayer.

Fr handed out a brief paper describing the purpose of a Parish Pastoral Council. He explained there were two main purposes; pastoral and social. The council is to foster participation of the entire parish in the life and mission of the church. It advises the pastor in areas of pastoral concern. Members are to be representative of the whole parish. The council assists the pastor by making recommendations on how the parish can be faithful in living out the mission of the church. It provides practical wisdom. It consults with other parishioners. It should be rooted in prayer, working to enhance the quality of parish life and promoting parish vitality.

There followed a discussion of what the purpose of the council should be. We need to review what needs doing in the parish and to ask others to help in these tasks, and we must consider what the parish is doing now and how it can change and improve.

Some practical suggestions were raised and discussed. Suggestions included an outside Mass, a youth group, a summer barbeque, possible improvements to the children's liturgy. It was agreed that we needed to focus on a few areas to begin with. Fr explained how he saw our work starting at the centre and gradually working outwards. A family welcoming Sunday was suggested. The weekly tea and coffee after Mass was an attempt to draw people together. It was agreed that the Quavers had been very successful in involving children and encouraging some parents to stay after Mass. We agreed that we should all take responsibility for encouraging more people to stay for tea and coffee.

Possible social initiatives were considered. Fr had an idea of an Indian meal cookery demonstration and dinner. Other suggestions included a barbeque and children's sports day, and a parish meal similar to those held previously. It was agreed that there was little time left to plan and organise any event before the school's broke up for the summer; private schools would finish in early July, and the state schools on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

Three activities were agreed:

- Fr and the Council would arrange an Indian evening and dinner for September. This could include a display of dancing or music, and an Indian meal. It would be impractical to combine a cookery demonstration with a meal, but this idea could be saved for another occasion.
- Blessed Robert Grissold's anniversary falls on Sunday this year. It was agreed that something could be arranged to mark his anniversary, through the children's

liturgy and the Quavers. We could ask the parish to provide cakes, and the council could provide buck's fizz.

- A celebration should be organised for the children of our church who are making their First Holy Communion on 18<sup>th</sup> June. This should be done through the parents of last year's children.

The meeting closed with a short prayer.

Date of next meeting: June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30.