



## **Jesmond St Mary Partnership Minutes**

**Face to face at St Mary's and via Zoom 6.30pm**

**20 October 2021**

### **1 Opening Prayer led by Rachael**

### **2 Welcome, opening remarks, attendance, apologies**

In attendance:

Fr Bill Agle (Dean), Rachael Blackburn (Chair), Fr Jonathan Bowes, Alice Dack, Jim Early, Julia Firbank, Fr Sean Hall, Catherine Hearne, Dave McGee, Nick Ternan, Fr Shaun O'Neill, Jennifer Richardson, Jane Riley, Gerard Shepherd, Jo Shepherd, Janet Wallbank (dep for Mike Potts) Barbara Cooper (mins)

Apologies: Fr Michael Campion, Claire Cave, Michael Howard, Mike Potts

### **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

None presented due to the last meeting being held on 3 December 2020. They are out of date and membership has since changed.

### **3 Introductions from all members**

All those present explained their role within their own parish and their experiences of partnership working thus far. Please see attached list of all partnership contacts and their parishes.

### **4 Sharing of thoughts about Partnership working**

Reps from St Charles and Sacred Heart expressed their pleasure at joining JSM as they felt more of an affinity to this group than ones based in Seaton Delaval and Blackfriars.

SO'N raised the issue of organising partnership wide sacrament programmes and other relevant activities that could be shared across the area. Eg Advent talks, Reconciliation services, Confirmations. GS felt that parishes had to hold onto their identity as well and gave examples of where cross partnership sacramental programmes had only had marginal success.



People shared their experiences of partnership events or joint activities that had been successful.

Spirituality sub group (Come to the Well programme was very successful)

Penitential Services (a suggestion that we arrange a couple or more of these for December to spread the load for priests)

Walking Pilgrimage

Confirmation preparation programme (particularly where young people not able to access this at school)

Pope John Paul 11 Award support for St Mary's pupils

Financial support of Flame programme

RCIA programme

Communications Group (although it had been hampered by the long wait for an updated Diocesan website). Note: The Diocesan website should be made live by the beginning of November.

Centre for Catholic Studies lectures/talks held at Holy Name

Parrish activities opened up to the partnership such as Faure's Requiem Mass

Sharing of Mass times around Easter and Christmas

This led to a suggestion that all parishes shared the dates and times of their upcoming bereavement services for November.

Moving forward there were suggestions that we use some of the JSM partnership money to arrange transport for cross partnership services where there was a lack of good public transport or low car ownership. This was agreed as a good idea.

There was a question about scripture or discussion groups taking place during the day particularly in the winter months. This would enable older people or those unwilling to venture out after dark to attend. They could be repeated at night for those working to be able to attend.



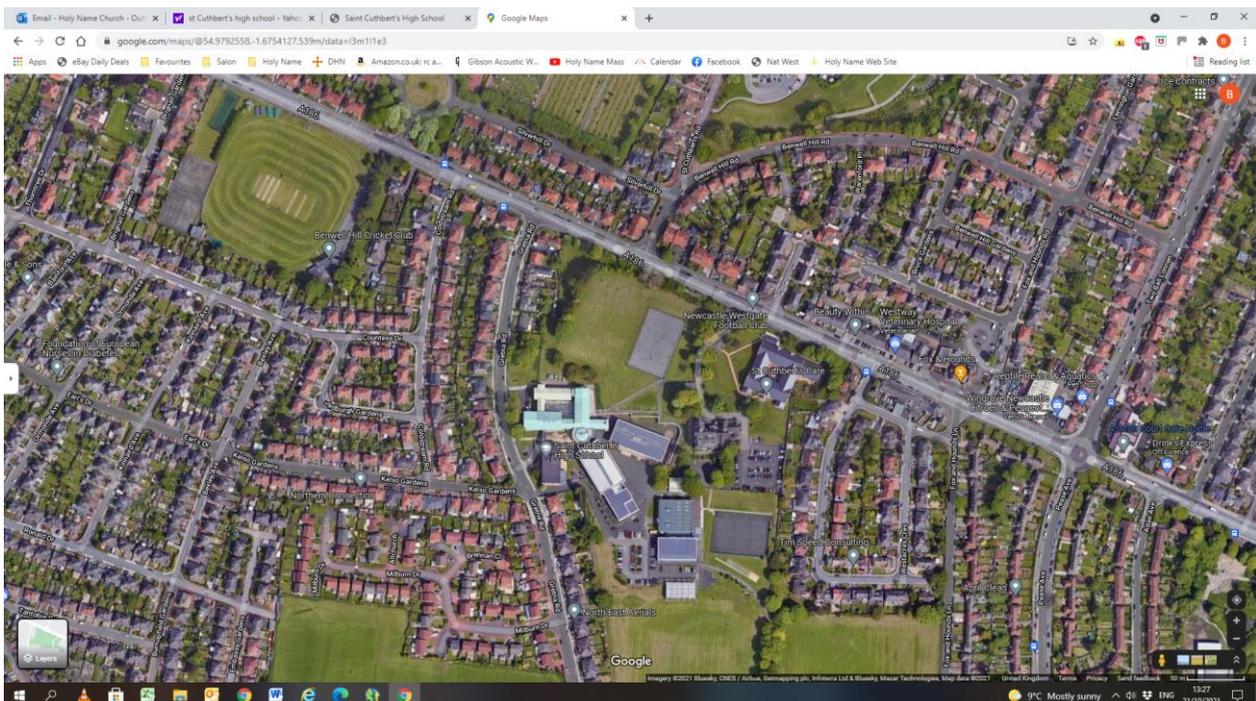
## 5 Synod

BA set out Pope Francis' Year of the Eucharistic programme and the Diocesan approach to gathering the views of parishioners. These views were to be obtained via a series of events and creative communications within parishes then fed into the partnership representatives who would in turn feed into the Diocesan Synod group meetings. The timescale was short for the information gathering part. The first Diocesan Reflection day is on Saturday 6 November followed by Saturday 15 January. Both held at St Cuthbert's High School.

St Cuthbert's Catholic High School

Gretna Rd,  
Newcastle upon Tyne,  
NE15 7PX

The school is just after the Diocesan offices on the West Road.



Following the meeting, BC emailed the Vicariate for Faith and Mission asking for more details of the events. Their reply:

Session begins at 10am and finishes at 1pm. It includes Mass, refreshments and will be mostly giving out information at the 6 November session so that the reps know what to bring back to the 15 January session. Access will be via Gretna Road main car park. A letter is coming out in the next few days.



Two volunteers stepped forward to represent our partnership.

Jennifer Richardson

Gerard Shepherd

BA will look at the process of gathering information from parishes to feed into the two reps.

It was agreed to meet again as a whole partnership on Tuesday 4 January 2022 at 6.30pm in St Mary's to pull together the information needed to submit to the 15 January Reflection Day meeting.

A discussion took place on suggestions of how to go about gathering the information within parishes. The letter sent to parish priests describes a number of options from face to face, electronically, after Mass, working with schools and adding to a parish council. Some parishes already had dates in their diary for this. The gathering of information is to focus on 10 themes which in turn have a set of 10 questions related to each theme. The link below takes you to the DHN website, Emmaus Journey document which lists the themes and questions. More information is on the website.

<http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/faithandmission/pdfdoc/2021/synod/Synod%20The%20Road%20to%20Emmaus%20Journeying%20Together%20STD%20FINAL.pdf>

Also attached is a synopsis of the themes and questions prepared by BC if you find that useful.

RB pointed out that whatever we gather for this exercise can be useful in our parishes regardless of how diluted it might become when added to the vast amount of information that will be feeding up to the Bishop.

JRi pointed out that the language used in the Synod papers online was very high brow and complex thus making it difficult to absorb.

SH said that he had read a remarkable article in a Columban Missionaries magazine about communion and participation. Click the link to access the article.

<https://columbans.co.uk/mission/8208/acts-of-the-apostles-vision-for-a-synodal-church/>



## **6 Appointment of a Vice Chair**

RB was previously the vice chair and when she became chair, no vice chair was appointed at the time. It is clear that we need a vice chair now and the group were asked to consider who they might elect. Suggestions to RB and BA by email would be welcome before the next meeting.

## **7 Appointment of a Minute Secretary**

BC has stepped down as minute secretary after serving since the inception of partnerships in 2017. The group thanked BC for her services. A replacement could come from within the group or from someone within any parish who has the skills needed. Please email RB and BA with suggestions.

## **8 Closing Prayer**

Led by RB.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm.