**AMDG**

**Parish 2015 AGM Notes**

We have held 4 meetings of the PCC since our last AGM

My thanks go to the able volunteers who serve on the Pastoral committee.

Some of the past year’s achievements:

1. Lenten Talks: Fr Peter took the opportunity of the Lenten period to give four talks entitled ’The Sacraments revisited’ They were very interesting and I would encourage more Parishioners to consider attending hopefully for next year.
2. The Sacramental programme was run by Sarah Hodgkinson this year and it has been a successful outcome for our candidates for Confirmation and First Communion. Thank you Sarah
3. Similarly, Sarah has supported the Children’s Liturgy at St Joseph’s with additional volunteers helping the very young children to have their own space and activities. Our thanks to Sarah Hodkinson for supporting this
4. Advent Services: all the Masses enjoyed good attendances especially the Vigil Mass and our thanks are extended to Lucy Harrison and John Thomasson for their efforts in putting together all the Christmas Packs and for all others who provided assistance particularly on Christmas Eve.
5. The Easter Triduum was wholly shared with the College retreatants, This was a wonderful opportunity for St Peter’s to look and feel full, with a choir and the organ music contributing to the special services. On behalf of all the committee I would like to extend thanks to John Holden and John Thomasson for their lead in this, and the Easter services booklet produced by Frances Ahearne .
6. We now have an agreed Parish Mission which if you need to check it is on the website

*Our mission in St Peter’s Parish, Stonyhurst is:*

*to deepen our faith in our relationship to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit through the celebration of the liturgy and prayer*

*to warmly welcome those seeking to find God in their lives and to share our lives with them*

*to go out into our communities so as to share our faith with others and communicate it especially by our care for those in any kind of need*

*to acknowledge and use the Jesuit charism with which we have been gifted*

1. The Parish Extra was again published at Advent and included the story of the Holden family martyr as well as feedback from young parishioners who have made the Lourdes pilgrimage
2. This time next year we will be seeing the near completion of the new St Joseph’s Chapel and school classrooms. We have been extremely fortunate with additional funds coming from the Trustees to ensure the project takes place and I look forward to its usage for children and Parishioners alike.
3. I apologise for not mentioning everyone who has helped in some way in ensuring the running of the Parish and all that this contributes to our enjoyment of our Christian community

Looking forward:

a. There has not been much to report on the Social side of the Parish but there are two planned events which we hope to publicise shortly: firstly a BBQ at have my house and if the weather is kind, to include some children’s games. This will take place in June. Secondly we are booking Matt Howarth and his Jazz band to have a dinner dance similar to the one of two years ago, and which will be a joint event with St John’s Church. We are looking at an October date for this event

b. The Finance committee has approved a budget to improve the Cemetery chapel which needs some TLC and that will be an opportunity to have additional Masses besides the annual All Souls one;

c. And finally, at the recent Village Fete: both Parish Priest and Jesuit brother were seen participating in the Tombola and spent Parish/Provincial funds to the tune of £2. Investigations are being undertaken as to the wisdom of this expenditure!

Thank you for listening and thank you for coming!

Parish Priest's Report PPC AGM 14th May 2015

Since the last PPC AGM, the work of the parish has continued with the administration of the sacraments and provision of Sunday masses.

In the year just gone, there have been eleven recent confirmations from St Joseph's School, seven baptisms, fifteen marriages and sadly, six funerals.

It is pleasing to note that a sub-committee of the PPC produced a Parish Mission Statement with help from some interested parishioners. The challenges it raises can be a good stimulus for forward-looking thought.

Over the year just gone, progress has been made in forwarding the development of the School Chapel at St Joseph's, and preparatory work is finally to begin on June 22nd.

One pleasing development that has taken place over the last year is the growing links with St John's Church of England church in Hurst Green. We collaborated with them and others for the commemoration of the commencement of World War One over a hundred years ago with a 'lights out' ceremony at the Hurst Green War Memorial when nearly the whole village turned out on August 4th. We were invited as a parish to attend a Sunday morning worship when Muslim representatives from Preston joined us. We were also invited to attend a similar prayer service on the theme of the work of Christian Aid, appropriately at the time when we were thinking of helping the victims of the first Nepalese earthquake. Again, we were invited to a special supper to hear about the work of Water Aid. Perhaps we need to think seriously about how we might show similar initiative and invite our fellow Christians to activities of our own.

Myself and the Chair of the Parish Council, Mr Niall Macfarlane attended the Jesuit parishes forum in York, earlier this year in February. As usual, it was good to hear what other Jesuit parishes, most of them much larger than ours, were doing. The underlying theme of all such meetings nowadays is how parishes will cope with the ever-increasing problem of lack of priests. Such considerations should be at the fore-front of our thinking as there are no reasons for thinking that St Peter's, Stonyhurst can consider itself exempt from such a problem.

It is good to report that, following the initiative of one parishioner, Alison Cowdall, we as a parish are regularly contributing to a Food Bank in Blackburn. It is a pity that we have to have such institutions in this day and age, but so long as there is a need, it is good to know that we are making some contribution. Generous gifts to charities and to appeals is to be commended.

One lack in the parish is the absence of socialising and I would hope that this deficiency will be addressed in the future. To be commended is the monthly cup-of-tea after the 10.00 mass in St Joseph's which helps towards creating community, as is the fortnightly Monday ecumenical gathering under the heading of 'Coffee Drop' which is patronised by the older and younger members of the Catholic community. Let's enjoy one another's company and so thanks to those who have helped organise this gathering this evening.

**LDS**