

PARISH OF ST BENEDICT'S, STRATTON-ON-THE-FOSSE 2018

Background

The people of the Diocese have, through both the workings of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Diocese-wide consultation and with the full support of Bishop Declan, suggested that each parish should establish its own Pastoral Council. The main purposes of this Council are:

- To support the Parish Priests in their ministries to the people of the parish
- To enable the laity to take on a more active role in parish life.

Fr Michael & Fr Boniface have set in motion the process of establishing such a Council in this parish and a core group, representing our worshipping community, was asked to put forward proposals for consideration by all parishioners. The group was specifically charged with drafting a suggested mission statement and a process for electing the members of the Parish Council.

Proposed Parish Mission Statement

PARISH OF ST BENEDICT'S, STRATTON-ON-THE-FOSSE exists as a worshipping community to proclaim and live out the Gospel of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and to help its members to develop, as far as humanly possible, their own personal relationship with God.

Our Vision for the PARISH OF ST BENEDICT'S, STRATTON-ON-THE-FOSSE

- We want our Parish to be a community that enriches the lives of people, both parishioners and the wider world.
- We want our Parish to be a community of prayer and service.
- We want our Parish to be a community of welcome and fellowship.
- We want our Parish to celebrate its rich traditions and diversity, the talents and gifts of all its people, new and long established.

Our Vision for the Pastoral Council:

- We want a team of people entrusted by the people of the Parish to work together and in support of our Parish Priests.
- We want a team that will seek in its decisions to find consensus and collaboration.
- We want a team that will strive to understand the needs and aspirations of our Parish.
- We want a team that will identify and support the work of the many people already serving our Parish.
- We need a team that can set a direction and priorities for new or expanded services and missions.
- We need a team that will work towards the realisation of our Parish vision.
- The Pastoral Council will need to be wholly accountable to the Parish and seek renewal of its membership on a regular and fair basis.

Proposed Structure for the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

- 1) 12 members –
 - a. 6 elected by open election in 2017 and to serve for two years before standing down or being re-elected
 - b. and 6 nominated by the Parish Priests in 2018 to serve for two years
 - c. Nominations by the Parish Priests are to be used to ensure all Masses are represented in order to pull the Parish together
- 2) At least 6 meetings a year.
- 3) Council to elect its own Chair, Secretary etc.
- 4) Council Meetings will be open to all – agenda to be published and displayed in advance.
- 5) Minutes of meetings to be made public.
- 6) An Annual General Meeting is to be held after the Sunday 6.00 Mass on the Feast of Christ The King. This meeting will allow:
 - a. the PPC to report back on the year's activities
 - b. the PPC to look ahead to plans for the coming year
 - c. elections for the PPC to take place