

CLUSTER REPORT TO ARCHBISHOP CUSHLEY
St James' St Andrews, Christ the King Pittenweem with Most Holy Trinity Crail, Canmore
Catholic Chaplaincy

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS OF OUR CLUSTER (from the 3 meetings)

- We are already our own cluster, largely rural, with one priest serving 4 places of worship (Canonically: 2 parishes with 3 churches, and a university chaplaincy).
- The two parishes & chaplaincy have worked together for a number of years (approx. 10) and, notwithstanding any historical difficulties, work well together. There is substantial interaction and movement of people between the parishes for Masses etc. As a result, some felt that the archdiocesan consultation processes ('Now is the Favourable Time', 'Forward Together in Hope' etc) have been ongoing with no long-term decisions being made. 'Consultation fatigue' was expressed with a desire for concrete decisions being made. However, the people also felt a little 'ahead of the curve' in this latest consultation process due to their existing interaction and co-operation.
- During the process of this year-long consultation, some of the observations concerning further integration have been/are being met. It has assisted the process of co-operation and awareness of each other's needs.
- **People:** In the East Neuk (Pittenweem & Crail), the average Mass attendance (2015) is 45 with significant fluctuation throughout the year (holiday seasons). The parish is roughly 50% residents, 50% visitors. In St James' (St Andrews), there are three Sunday Masses with a combined average attendance of 420, with significant fluctuation throughout the year (holiday seasons). The parish is roughly one third residents, one third students, one third visitors. Chaplaincy is very busy during term time with lots of events.
- **Plant:** In the East Neuk, Crail is in good condition with no major works required, although heating system not great for Winter. There is no presbytery in Crail. Pittenweem is in relatively poor condition externally with significant roof work required (listed gatehouse also needs significant attention); internally it is relatively in good condition but could do with re-decoration upstairs. Possibility exists of upstairs flat in Pittenweem being rented out with approx. £15,000 of works being done (to gain £500 a month in rent). St James' church relatively good condition, some internal repairs & re-decoration required. Church hall in poor condition: needs substantial re-decoration and upgrading (windows, doors etc – money set aside for this purpose). Canmore: long-term need to substantially re-furbish – a very large project if/when initiated, costing hundreds of thousands of pounds.
- **Finances:** East Neuk relatively strong for low population (£25,728 incoming for £18,042 outgoing – 2015). Has frequent, small fundraising initiatives which add up. Gift Aid proportionately high. St James' generally solvent but not by very much (£72,160 incoming for £68,372 outgoing). Relatively little ordinary fundraising, although on-going funds raised for specific purposes of hall renovation. Specific fundraising (e.g. Replacement lighting) very good. A cluster-wide '1000 club' may be considered in future. Canmore Income is very limited to 1 full rental and assistance from the archdiocese.

0. WHAT IS CONSIDERED TO BE A FAIR AND DISCERNED REPRESENTATION OF THE VIEWS OF THE CLUSTER PARISHES ABOUT WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TOGETHER IN PASTORAL PROVISION?

- Sharing one priest, and with years of experience, a lot is already being done together in pastoral provision e.g. visitation of the sick carried out by priest and people in respective parishes, preparation for the sacraments for children done largely through primary school. Liturgical life, while at times spread out, is shared across the board – largely the same things going on in each place. With social life, each place does their own thing at times but everyone invited. The flow of people from one place to the next has been improving over the years. The social life is becoming more cohesive with joint pilgrimages, formation days, social nights etc. Likewise, the functional/stewardship aspects of parish life have become more united: a joint parish newsletter, joint parish council, joint training days. People have been slowly getting to know each other better over the years, which has not been easy given the high turnover of people who come and go in the area.
- Sacramental provision is already done together. Wedding preparation is cluster wide (presently by the priest). Children’s sacramental preparation is largely through the Catholic primary school (although there are a few each year who do not attend the school due to distance or personal choice. Practice days and actual Confirmation days etc are, however, done as a cluster). Children’s liturgy is only available in St Andrews but there are not the numbers in East Neuk to make it viable.
- Devotional life (Legion of Mary, Divine Mercy etc) is slowly becoming more cluster-based (e.g. First Saturday of the month devotions to Our Lady). Provision of extra devotions in liturgical seasons, such as Lent, take place in each church but the provision takes this into account with no clashing of times/days etc.
- RCIA/Faith Enquiry: is offered for whole cluster in Canmore. Works very well for students and locals interested in the Catholic faith.
- Community/social events need greater integration and mutual support.
- Service/outreach: charitable activities, such as Lenten projects, outreach to foreign students, work well on cluster basis. Parishes, school and chaplaincy all take part.
- Communication: newsletter, web page, facebook page give details of the common pastoral provision
- Fundraising: perhaps more unified fundraising/Gift Aid appeals in the future.

1. WHAT SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE FOCUSED ON SINGLE PARISH PROVISION FOR PASTORAL PROVISION?

- Liturgy: there are some things that are unique to particular places (e.g. Prayer groups, recitation of the Angelus, adoration etc). There is no reason why these cannot continue if people are willing to lead them. There is a team of truly dedicated lay helpers in each place who faithfully open/close our churches.
- Community: each parish/church has a local community or town of which it forms a part. The towns are, relatively speaking, far apart (Pittenweem 12 miles South and Crail 12 miles South-East of St Andrews). Outreach can therefore be very local at times with support for local initiatives being greatly appreciated, which further assists community cohesion and respectability of the Catholic community in that area. Local people 'on the ground' are the only ones who can engage with these events. Local festivals (Crail & Pittenweem) are good examples of this. The latter is also financially beneficial to the parish.
- Ecumenical: there are numerous churches of various denominations across the cluster. The priest belongs to 2 fraternals and 1 chaplaincy team but the real pastoral provision here is led by the people of the respective towns/parishes.
- Social/fundraising: there are a number of smaller social and fundraising activities that take place on the single parish basis, such as teas & coffees after Mass, social nights, charity events, coffee mornings etc. These are already well provided for by respective teams of committed lay helpers.
- Student outreach: realistically this is largely limited to the town of St Andrews.
- Accommodation: there is the potential of rented accommodation available in the flat in Pittenweem, either for private occupancy or extra (retired) priest/nuns.
- Finance: there are currently three separate accounts – one for each parish and one for the chaplaincy.

2. WHERE DO YOU SEE SIGNS AND DEVELOPMENTS OF VIBRANCY IN YOUR CLUSTER PARISHES THAT MAY LEAD TO NEW GROWTH IN THE FUTURE

- **Spiritual:** It was felt that this was the most important area of vibrancy, lest the Church be mistaken for an N.G.O. Ideally, there would be greater presence of children and young families across the board but Mass and Eucharistic adoration is available in all four plants. In real terms, adoration/devotions is stronger in the East Neuk but St Andrews also has a parish choir and student schola to assist conscious and active participation in Sunday celebrations. Masses are generally well-attended by older parishioners, visitors and students but less well attended by local, young families, in spite of a committed team for children's liturgy. An increased understanding of the importance of the Eucharist will be essential for any new growth. Perhaps a change to the age of confirmation (to P.7) would help this process in giving more in-depth and engaging catechesis for children. The Year of Mercy's focus on the Sacrament of Reconciliation was a good initiative. Hundreds of people took our fliers and many came back to confession. Faith Enquiry/RCIA is open to all but more could be done in area of evangelisation.
- **Social:** there has been a greater awareness of and somewhat increased participation in the respective social events in each parish/church/chaplaincy. A joint social group has been formed with several, key, annual social events to be held in common. A joint ceilidh was held recently in the primary school and was a great success, as was the joint parish pilgrimage to Rome and joint fundraising activities for Lent. It is often difficult encouraging students to participate in parish events but parishioners have certainly shown greater outreach with a graduation party in the summer and assistance with the student Ball etc. Generally, we are not in a poor area but there is a presence of SVDP in both parishes.
- **Stewardship/leadership:** there are stable and committed groups of people in each parish/church who help look after the sick, the buildings, social and spiritual life of our parishes. There is now a joint parish council in place of two previous ones and a greater desire to do things together. However, concern was raised for those parishioners who are unable to attend Mass due to ill-health/transport problems. The desire is there to assist people but the need to abide by PVG checks etc can be cumbersome, especially when training sessions are rarely offered nearby, in spite of repeated requests in the annual safeguarding audits.

3. NAMING PASTORAL GOALS FOR THE CLUSTER TO WORK TOGETHER MORE CLOSELY IN A SPIRIT OF MISSION AND EVANGELISATION

- Being honest: our cluster is aware that we may be in a fairly unique position in already working together for many years as one cluster - unlike parishes being asked to work with neighbours for the first time. People are also aware of the difficulties and tensions of the past and the need to be sensitive to local needs in the present and in the future. Mistakes may have been made and are always possible in the future but there appears to be a general consensus that the Catholic Church in our cluster has at least some (growing) sense of unity. As with part three above, our statement of consensus focussed on the following three areas of pastoral goals for the future:
- Spiritual: to increase the sense of spiritual unity across the cluster by creating greater uniformity of practice (e.g. Liturgical practices regarding readers, extraordinary ministers, devotional prayers etc). To encourage greater participation in liturgical seasons, such as Advent and Lent, with joint projects of a spiritual, catechetical or practical nature (Lenten projects, Advent rorate Masses). We hope to encourage these things not to the detriment of positive, already existing spiritual initiatives in the respective places. However, a greater emphasis on joint activities with the Legion of Mary, SVDP, etc., would be encouraged in order to share resources and talents. Future pilgrimages as a cluster would also be encouraged and future areas of evangelisation would also be considered.
- Social: to maintain a number of joint social events throughout the year with the assistance of a joint social group (sub-committee of the joint parish council). While this may involve a fundraising dimension to it, the primary focus would be on the Catholic community coming together and getting to know each other better. These events would also, hopefully, serve as an area of outreach to others, especially our transient student community and frequent visitors.
- Stewardship/leadership: to encourage those 'on the ground' with a sense of responsibility for their own areas but also use their time and talents for the up-building of the entire Catholic community, not just their own 'wee patch'. Particular concern, however, was expressed for those who cannot get to Mass through no fault of their own. It was agreed that, presuming all safeguarding norms were adhered to, it would be desirable to appoint a co-ordinator to act as a point of contact for anyone requiring transportation to Mass, and that drivers would be invited to volunteer their services. In the sad event of any parish/church being closed in future decision making, it was felt that the purchase of a minibus for this very purpose should be considered. Regarding finances, the possibility of a joint fund-raising club was also mooted. Without undermining localised fundraising, this could be a high-profile initiative with any funds being distributed to the respective parishes on a per-capita basis.