

## Minutes from Liturgy and Faith Committee 27/9/2023

*(to be approved at the next meeting of this sub-committee)*

Present: Chris D , Marina S, Laura C, Elaine B, Kevin L, Kathryn B, Pat C, Leo, Guilia R, Sharon E, Mary V, Peter H, Lisa D, Becky

Apologies: Terry E, Doreen M, Nuala H, Caroline W, Mandy B

Meeting opened with prayer and after the welcome a brief reminder of the new Parish Committee structure was given by Chris & Marina. Chris then invited the group representatives to say (in 2 mins) what they are doing in the parish and identify any needs.

Group	Notes	Actions
RCIA/Baptism –	Course just started again with six new candidates. Nuala runs the course and Leo (a candidate from last year’s group) gave a summary of his experience.	Marina to see Ashley about OLP children’s liturgy notes being placed at ST G’s
Marriage preparation	Sharon & Lisa have prepared 3 couples for marriage partly in a group session (preferred) and partly via zoom. It is a practical course aimed at ensuring marriages stay strong rather than a faith development course. It was noted that there is a new parish projector and speaker to aid audio visual presentations	Marina to ensure that a message is passed on about including blinds in the new build at Shottery to allow for daytime projection.
Confirmation	The date for Confirmation has been to delayed until after Christmas date still TBC. The course will start soon. Discussion as to the best age to be confirmed developed. This needs more time for discussion and explanation. However, it will not affect the coming Confirmation programme. Laura pointed out that some Yr 6’s are ready for confirmation and it was agreed that as she knows the children if she felt they should be included then that would be a strong support. The fulness of the Holy Spirit is given in baptism. Confirmation is about the individual candidate taking on their adult responsibility for their faith. It was suggested that a note of explanation should be put in the bulletin in the meantime. Candidates are asked to write to Fr Alex to say why they feel they want to be confirmed and are ready for this sacrament.	Chris to ensure that a way of involving the parish in a future discussion can be found next year.  Marina to get a note into the bulletin for next week.
Children’s Liturgy	Mandy was not present. However, we know that Mandy and her team ensure that Children who attend the 9.30 am Sunday Mass are enabled to understand the Gospel message of the day.	
Altar Servers and Rosary	Terry sent apologies as she had Covid. Point raised about Alter servers at OLP	Chris to discuss with Terry and Laura (Sch)
First Communion	Laura reported that the school runs its own bespoke programme which is marked by a service and the giving of a candle by the parent to the child. This is very symbolic and deeply enriching.  Guilia preparing to start the First Communion programme for attenders at non-Catholic Schools after Oct half term. “Jesus comes to me” programme is used. Last year there were 23 FC attending non-Catholic schs. This year there will be an extra programme for a few who are yet to be baptised	
Bible group	This is a small group who share fellowship.	

School	Laura said that the school really wants to be able to engage with the parish more and to welcome more parishioners to the school Mass and get involved with the school. A special request that on Holy days of Obligation (if during school term) is the only morning Mass and is held at the school so that more parishioners would go and participate in the school-based liturgy. Mini SVP runs well. Also, Peter H worked with Yr 2 introducing them to the symbols in the Church. Jane C spoke to Yr 1 about her faith. Laura was encouraged to continue with these great initiatives and ask if there are other ideas that the parishioners can support.	Laura to send the school's Twitter (X) link to Ashley to be advertised in the newsletter. Also a sch display in both church porches. Chris to discuss with Fr A ways of ensuring more parishioners go to the sch Mass, especially on Holy Days of Obligation.
Alpha	Peter reported on the success of the Alpha programme that has just finished. Thought will go into how to run the programme next year and how/who to target in terms of parish outreach. Involving the parents from the school was one suggestion that met approval. Marina spoke about the possibility of putting on a GCSE course for parents.	Peter to consider how to move the Alpha outreach idea forward. Marina to consider how to move the GCSE proposal forward with the help of others
Music	Elaine spoke with enthusiasm about building on the musical legacy at OLP. Kathryn reported on her ministry with the choir of all comers. Some discussion as to how to bring on St G's music.	Elaine to explore CPD with a view to the parish supporting the costs. Chris/Elaine/Kathryn/Dorren to meet to discuss Advent/Christmas season music
Vocations	Pat spoke about his pre-covid links with the Deanary – visiting schools. Laura spoke about at wonderful vocations event with Yr 6 which encompassed the fullest sense of vocations (nursing, teaching, parenting etc) as well as religious/ priestly vocations.	
Eucharistic Ministers	Mary V spoke about her role in doing the Eucharistic ministers lists. An up-to-date list of ministers who have been DBS checked is needed. Also, Chris talked about the need for the Parish to provide a Eucharistic minister's retreat day.	Mary to speak to Ashley about the list  Chris to look into organising a retreat day.

#### Matters arising:

Parish Communication – The possible introduction of parish + school diary (Key school Events) -issued at start of calendar year. Chris to investigate further and report back at the next meeting.

#### Opportunities going forward

Chris asked everyone to consider for the next meeting what support they need to bring their ministries forward.

#### Dates of future meeting

- 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024
- 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024
- 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024

#### Closing Prayer