

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council 4th October 2023

Present: Fr Alex, Peter Finkel (Ch), Mark O' Connell, Marina Smith, Chris Danes, Cecilia Donnelly, Simon Chappell

Apologies: Theresa Finkel

1. Opening Prayers.

2. **Feedback:** from Sub-Committees highlighted the need for:

Faith in Action (FIA):

- information about the works proposed for Our Lady of Peace and Blessed Robert Dibdale (Our Lady of Peace) detailing; i) costings, ii) planning process and timetabling, iii) storage and iv) helping parishioners to and from St Gregory's services during the works
- volunteers across the board, more resources and recognition of the need for refunding the expenses of volunteers who regularly contribute resources of their own
- publicity for the work of the various groups for example, through displays in porches, the bulletin and the pulpit
- effective working with and support for the other Churches in the town to meet existing and future community needs
- information about and training in Fire Awareness, Health and Safety, food handling, budget/financial management.

Liturgy and Faith Development (L&FD):

- a greater emphasis on faith development in Marriage preparation
- to address parents' concerns, reinforce (in Parish and School) understanding of when we receive the Holy Spirit (i.e., at Baptism). Confirmation completes Baptism and young people confirmed after leaving St Gregory's have already received the Holy Spirit at Baptism.
- more faith development opportunities (following the success of the Alpha Course). Marina Smith will be leading a Course for a GCSE in Catholicism comprising 5 lessons in each term. Caroline Wilkes to provide support in Spring and Summer terms. To be held at Our Lady of Peace and continuing at St Gregory's after the building works start.
- reintroduce an annual Retreat Day for Eucharistic Ministers (EMs) with preparatory training beforehand (Saturday morning?); re-examine the significance of the Maundy Thursday Renewal of Vows and "the real presence" (Marina Smith to lead Catechesis); reconsider at what point in the Mass EMs collect the Blessed Sacrament for Holy Communion in

the Community; review generally the role, appointment, current numbers and activity rotas for EMs.

Themes common to both:

- improve communication generally on what is happening e.g., with the Synodal Process which is continuing. Perhaps a formal communication strategy is needed
- a Parish Plan/Diary/Calendar detailing events and activities for the year ahead for the Churches and School (incl. School Masses); closer links between School and Churches, enabling human and financial resources to be identified and sourced in a timely way. Chris Danes to pursue this and liaise with Parish Secretary with a view to putting a proposal to the February meeting
- opportunities for collaboration/joint working i) between Churches and between Churches and School e.g., bringing music at both Churches and School together (Chris Danes proposing to start this for Christmas and Easter) and ii) e.g., in relation to storage of Repository Goods/flowers etc.
- a general review of resources needs and how activities can be passed on to new volunteers

Other matters for consideration:

- can the CD system be modernised so it can be operated from the Sanctuary? Marina Smith to pursue this with Con McHugh
- should we revert to pre-covid practises for readers and receiving communion?
- identifying parishioners: do we revisit name badges and consider formal welcoming as at Our Lady of Peace?
- how do we involve young people generally and in particular in the Synodal process and people who e.g., get married at church and then no longer attend Mass

3. Any Other Business

- there was general discussion about the circumstances in which EMs are required to undergo Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. The Safeguarding Officer is to prepare an update on the current national guidance on the need or otherwise for DBS checks
- the 200 Club has been handed over to Stephen Buckle by David Baines
- Planning Consultant Donna Savage has taken over the planning application for the proposals for Our Lady of Peace and will be meeting the Architect tomorrow with a view to progressing matters. It is unlikely that any work will start before January 2024.

- the Building Committee is a Sub-Committee of the main PPC and will be reformed under the same rules as the three other Sub-Committees
- the Visitation by the Abbot takes place on the weekend of 25th/26th November 2023. After the 5.30pm Mass and building on the Open Day theme, Group Leaders are asked to show the Abbot (over tea/coffee) the activities and events taking place in the Parish. Displays will be welcomed and name badges should be worn.
- There will be a Youth Mass on Youth Sunday (26th November 2023 - Feast of Christ the King). Chris Danes to organise the music.
- Revised dates for future FIA and L&FD Sub-Committees:

FIA; 24th January 2024, 26th June 2024 and **16th October 2024**

L&FD; 31 January 2024, 3rd July 2024 and **23rd October 2024**

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet 7 days after each round of Sub-Committee meetings.

4. Closing Prayers.