

St Gregory's and Our Lady of Peace & Blessed Robert Dibdale
Liturgy and Faith Development Committee
The Minutes of the Meeting on 3 July 2024

Present: Chris D (chair), , Terry E, Nuala H, Mandy B, David C, Kathryn B, Marina S

Apologies: Lisa D, Sharon E, Elaine B, Pat C, Guilia R, Becky L, Doreen M,

Observers: Peter F (PPC co-chairs) and Damian O'B ((representing the Communications subcommittee)

1. **Opening Prayers 7pm** Chris (Chair) welcomed those in attendance

2. **Apologies:** as above.

3. **The Minutes of the meeting** on the 27 September 2023 were approved. Mention was made about links to the Polish community to this committee. They are represented on the main PPC. Chris to look into this.

4. **Matters arising:**

- **Altar servers** – given that we have had 50 making their First Holy communion and 24 make Confirmation how is it we are so short of altar servers? Need to find ways of ensuring children graduate from the Children's liturgy into serving especially at Shottery. The new building may be the ideal time to reform the link.

- **First Communion** - Discussion of the organisation around the actual **First Communion Service** including ensuring regular parishioners are at the service so that they can help carry the singing and make it a joyful welcoming faith filled experience for all. Also, the logistics of children being all together to receive their FHC rather than come up with family seemed to make it more special and worked better. Issue of not sending them back to their families after the reading (as the school did) as it left the front two benches empty.

- **Confirmation** -Request (from Faith in Action group) for a **Confirmation reunion Mass** and social with the aim of getting young people's feedback on how we as a parish can support the youth – maybe thinking of a youth group of some sort. Chris to discuss with Maureen and Father Alex to find a suitable date in September.

- **Cover for Fr Alex** went very smoothly – thanks to Chris for co-ordinating

- **Eucharistic Minister's retreat.** This was opened up to the parish at late notice due to falling numbers. In the end it was a great success and the thought is to have a Parish retreat annually that EM can also attend to fulfil their obligations.

5. **Updates:**

- **Deanery Pastoral Council** – see website for Pastoral letter from the Bishop and the Deanery summary of visitations. Also, the Parish visitation report. Need to begin to look at how we can share resources.

- **Baptism** – Nuala – Baptism courses with parents continue. However, as they often have their child with them, their attention is somewhat divided. The course would be of more use to the parents and help them think more deeply about their responsibilities if it was held just before the child was born or if it was insisted that they have child care arrangements in place when they attend the course. Sometimes they are even attending after their child has been baptised and this can become a tick box exercise.

- **RCIA** - there are two candidates so far for the course starting in September. Mandy has offered to support Nuala in this program. We discussed having a card at the back of the church for inquirers – letting them know how to contact the parish if interested in becoming a Catholic. Nuala to discuss liaison Ashley.
- No updates for Communion, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Marriage or Sacrament of the Sick
- **Children's Liturgy** – Mandy B. Await building updates at Shottery. For now, all is going well. Will look at supporting more altar servers by speaking with Guilia. Our thanks to Mandy and Guilia for all their ongoing work with the young people of the parish.
- **Music** – Kathryn reported that she is working with school to begin a school choir. This has the potential to grow. Watch this space. Elaine, Kathryn, Chris and Jane continue to support the school with liturgy. We discussed the parish supporting leaders to go on courses and keep up dated.
- **Bible group.** David reported that they have returned to meeting in the Parish room rather than online for now. He also wondered how we can prepare the Parish for the change in lectionary due at the beginning of Advent. A course on how to use Universalis was suggested.

6. AOB

- **Pilgrimages** – Suggestion made that an annual parish pilgrimage be a calendar event. FR Alex mentioned that if Walsingham was a consideration that an overnight stay be included. This might mean a smaller parish group going. Harvington Hall and Mount St. Bernard were also mentioned.
- **Communications** – Damien gave an update on behalf of the communications team. They are looking at different ways of communicating with parishioners and the general public including social media use.

Meeting ended with a prayer at 8.05pm