

**St Gregory's and Our Lady of Peace & Blessed Robert Dibdale
Liturgy and Faith Development Committee
The Minutes of the Meeting on 23 October 2024**

Present: Chris D (chair), Terry E, Nuala H, David C, Kathryn B, Pat C, Becky L, Kevin L, Guilia R, Peter H, Doreen M, Elaine B, Lucy D, Marina S

Apologies: Mandy B, Laura C, Fr Oliver

Observers: n/a

1. Opening Prayers: Led by Chair who welcomed those in attendance
2. Apologies: As above
3. Minutes of the last meeting on the 3rd July 2024: Approved as drawn
4. Matters arising:

Altar servers – to be picked up in updates

Faith in Action **request for Mass for Youth** – something to be discussed with Fr Oliver. Youth Mass for Christ the King Sunday 24th November **Action**

Universalis: need to have a concerted effort to get people using the app. Link already appears on the newsletter

Communication committee – the terms of this committee had been circulated to the chair and were read out to the meeting as follows :

The purpose of the group is to

1. Assist our Parish Priest with his priorities and objectives
2. Improve communications within the Parish (promoting the activities of all Parish Groups) including, FIA and L&FD and Pastoral Council.
3. Communicate to the whole Parish faith formation and Catholic Life activities undertaken at both churches in the Parish. Highlight/assist with any gaps in communications.
4. Identify opportunities to promote activities at a cluster, deanery and diocese level.
5. Identify best practices to use within Parish, including newsletter, social media, website, at Mass and in the Parish Calendar.

6. Meet regularly, say every 2 months except the Summer.
7. Provide written input to FIA, L&FD and Pastoral Council in a timely manner.

Members were asked to make use them if we need help with communication including updating the parish calendar **Action**

5. Update on the Synod on Synodality – The shape of the Church to come.

Some input was given on the Synodal process currently taking place in Rome. Parallels were drawn on how we as a parish can work in a Synodal way going forward with our new PP. It was suggested that we will need more time to work on the PPC constitution given the change of PP. It was proposed to suggest to the main PP that an extra 6 months is needed to work on this (bringing us to Sept 2025). If agreed this will need to be communicated to the Parish.

It was suggested that as a Parish we need to go through a process of discernment about our future vision and evangelical calling – then we need to ensure that the right buildings are in place to facilitate the next generation of Catholics in learning about /celebrating / living the gospel. Some discussion took place on what might this process / period of discernment look like and what kind of people we need to be.

Peter H suggested '*Open hearted and courageous walking towards the dawn*' and that some may like to look at the following additional information: [This Cultural Moment | Podcast on Spotify](#)

Mark Sayers teaches on the future and health of the church in the west, while framing our **cultural moment** and discussing what God may be up to.

Pat C mentioned that Our Lady plays a significant role model to a listening Church

6. Update on Parish Sacramental programmes

Music (Elaine / Kathryn)– Elaine and Kathryn are going into the primary school every Thursday. There is a school choir of 25 enthusiastic young people preparing for a Christmas concert. It's a challenging age range yet it's thriving. The school is totally supportive of this venture. Discussion on how the school choir could participate in other family masses e.g. New Parents welcoming mass, First Communion etc.

Altar servers (*Terry*) – one has started at OLP. Trialling altar servers at the school Mass as a way of encouraging. Discussed the possibility of getting more of a rota going between St G's/ OLP. We also considered that we should not try and force young people into this ministry – what are they saying to us when they are not wanting to serve on the altar? Chris – will look in to how we can proceed with this sensitively **Action**

RCIA (*Nuala*) – A flier is now available in both churches (see last meeting minutes). Two candidates with the possibility of two more joining soon. The group are meeting once a month until Lent when they will meet each week in preparation for being received at Easter. Nuala thanked Mandy B supporting the RCIA programme.

Baptism (*Nuala*) - Fr Oliver is keen to restructure the way the Baptism programme runs with looking at the Rite over 3 Masses

- Welcoming
- Anointing
- Baptism

Nuala excited by this and feels it will be a better way of going forward and will address some of the issues Nuala has identified. Watch this space.

First Communions (*Guilia*) – for candidates not in Catholic schools. Change this year as a trial. The lessons will take place at 4.45pm on a Saturday evening (before the 5.30pm Mass). The programme hopes to start after half term - dates are to be confirmed with Fr Oliver. **Action**

Children's Liturgy (*Lucy*) – Continue to meet during the Liturgy of the Word at the 9.30 Mass at Shottery. Awaiting a date with Fr Oliver and OLP School for the Mass with new families to the School (*Reception and Yr 1*)

Marriage (*Lisa*) Four couples signed up for next year. Lisa recently went to a couple's houses to run the course, yet not intending to make this option widely available. The course runs at OLP - Using The Pre Marriage Course (*Alpha*) – it is a two-day course (Saturdays). Pat C said he and his wife would like to get back involved in the programme (Covid having stopped their involvement). Lisa suggested help with those who can't make the main dates would be helpful

Bible group (*David*) still meeting each week – helps us to have personal time reflection on the Sunday texts

New Lectionary: *From Fr Oliver - I am going to a meeting at Oscott next Thursday (31 October) on the introduction of the new lectionary. I hope that I am going to learn a lot and to be in a position to do something for the whole parish in preparation for its launch on the 1st Sunday of Advent*

Music – (Doreen). **Mass for All Souls** on 2nd November is hoping that many will come to support the singing. **Carol service 22 December 4pm** – ideas please. A meeting with Fr Oliver and those interested in organizing to arrange. **Action**

Vocation Meeting – (Pat C) Pre Covid the deanery used to coordinate a Vocations day of prayer that involved the school. Pat to speak to Fr Oliver about this. **Action**

7. Update on Faith development groups

A group from the parish visited the Columbians in Solihull recently – *see notes from Faith in Action group*. This included a wonderful South American influenced liturgy. Question of where are we going as a Parish in terms of Live Simply or A Rocha?

8. Parish Pilgrimages

Medjugorje – 30 people have signed up— meeting on next Wednesday 30th October in the parish room at 7pm

9. What does it mean to be a Benedictine Parish?

Fr Oliver made a contribution on this item via email:

Item 9: "a Benedictine parish". After 50 years of praying the office in the choir of the Abbey, I would like to introduce the recitation of some of the Divine Office, at least to begin with Morning Prayer at 0915 before the 0930 Masses during the week. Any comments?

Fr Oliver's idea was welcomed with enthusiasm and it was noted that the parish had in past times under Fr Romuald and Fr Austin prayed the liturgical hours including vespers combined with the Thurs evening holy hour and during Holy Week.

We also reflected on the Rule of St Benedict Ch 3 which looks at how the Abbot should include the whole community in decision making yet in the end the Abbot decides. Parallels were made with the Synodal process and how we as a parish can work. It was noted that Fr Oliver is the expert in the Rule of St Benedict and has much to teach us about we can live out distinctiveness as

a parish. Suggest that he might like to give a series of talks on this? Chris to take up with Fr. Oliver. **Action**

10. Any Other Business

Length of the list of the dead/ sick on the newsletter – needs to be rationalized. Traditional 'months mind' appropriate for the dead – maybe a similar time scale as a basis for the sick list? Chair to speak Ashley/ Fr Oliver. **Action**

11. Date of Next Meeting -22nd January 2025

12. Meeting closed with prayers at 8:30pm

Request for further resources linked to point 5

LISTENING AND LEADING: THE CHURCH'S PATH IN THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY | Vaticano Oct. 20, 2024

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63--9yzV_ZA

Also, Pope Francis book LIFE

