

## Liturgy and Faith Development Committee Meeting

**PLEASE NOTE: The name of this committee will hence forth be known as:**

# Liturgy and Formation Committee

22nd January 2025 7pm Parish Room

St Gregory the Great Stratford on Avon

**Present:** Chris D (chair), Terry E, Nuala H, Mandy B, David C, Marina S, Elaine B, Pat C, Doreen M, David C,

**Apologies:** Laura C, Guilia R, Kathryn B, Peter H, Becky L, Kevin L. Lisa D

**Observers:** Teresa F (PPC co-chairs) and Damian (representing the Communications subcommittee)

### Agenda

1. **Opening Prayers:** Jubilee prayer (*Suggestion that we might use it at the end of Mass*)
2. **Apologies:** As above
3. **Minutes of the last meeting on the 23rd October 2024:** Approved as drawn
4. **Matters arising:**

**Action Points:** Fr Oliver to liaise with Polish community and Guilia about first communion Pat – to liaise with Fr Oliver about Vocation Mass and exposition

#### 5. Update on Parish Sacramental programmes:

**RCIA:** Four candidates with two Potential for next year. Fr Oliver leading the next session

**Baptism preparation course** is running – the new programme to take place over three Sundays: Welcome / oil of catechism / baptism.

**Marriage:** Four couples – Kaitlin is interested in supporting. Next Session is 8 Feb

#### 6. Update on Faith development groups

**Children's Liturgy:** Introducing Pilgrims of Hope 2025 / CAFOD resources

**Bible group:** Group is struggling – perhaps need to think about ways of renewal. Use the website for communication. Fr Oliver wondering about a group – on Friday after the weekday Mass – focusing on the Word of God.

**Elaine:** Successful first term with children choir at St Gregory's school including their involvement at the wonderful Carol service at Shottery before Christmas. Focusing on introducing new material. Recommend to liaise with school about One Life resources. **Christmas Liturgy:** A planning meeting in early Dec for next year will help the flow of the liturgy. Fr Oliver – supportive of printed service sheets as a resource. Possibly a sub committee for music and planning.

**Vocations-** See note above. Thanks to Doreen for including in bidding prayer on 4th Sunday of month. Liaise with school about what they are doing about vocation

**Altar Service:** Appreciated the Boxing Day Mass. Altar servers have done extra practice for Shattered as the 11.25 is there until further notice. Opportunity to train more servers.

**School:** Long term plan for the school for the Jubilee Year shared, including a pilgrimage prayer walk. The ideas were most welcome. The parish will support in anyway it can. watch this space.

## UPDATES

**Communication – team feedback.** Use a Bcc. To keep in line with data protection. Website and calendar is being managed on website – so contact Con with any updates. Fr Oliver will remind congregations that no photos should be taken during a service (*only the official photographer*). It was suggested that photos are not taken during the most solemn parts of the Mass (for example Consecration) and wonder if we need quite so many, Also, issue of data protection – do people know / agree to their photo being published on the website?

Great to have a parish record of events. TV screen now in place in Foyer

**PPC – existing posts extended** for another six months until a new PCC

**Youth Group** is in the process of a trial launch for Lent. Need to identify a younger person to take on the leadership / training / payment?

## 7. Jubilee Year of Hope

- Background / Explanation suggest visit website [Year of Jubilee 2025 - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)
- What's happening in the Diocese [The Jubilee Year 2025 | Birmingham Diocesan Trust](#)
- What's happening in the Parish?

Fr Oliver – will address some of the themes during the Sunday Service

Diocesan programme of Visit of the doors of named churches. – Possibly Chris D / Marina and Liaise to Fr O will look at developing a parish programme for the Jubilee year and getting people involved in leading different elements.

Six Themes – we need to link into them and bring a programme together.

(Here are the six themes of the Jubilee Year, as established by the Catholic Church, generally revolve around key spiritual and communal pillars. Here they are:

1. **Celebration:** Marking 50 years with gratitude and festivity.
2. **Restoration:** Emphasizing forgiveness, reconciliation, and renewal.
3. **Rebirth:** Focused on spiritual revival and personal growth.
4. **Liberty:** Promoting justice, freedom, and peace.
5. **Solidarity:** Encouraging community building and support.
6. **Sabbath:** Emphasizing the importance of rest and reflection.

These themes aim to promote spiritual reflection, community unity, and a renewed commitment to faith and service. )

## **8. Parish Pilgrimages**

Idea of a local pilgrimage – linked to the Jubilee year. Possibly an ecumenical vespers as All saints in Burton Dassett to link Jubilee year Ecumenism and the 1700 anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Fr Oliver to float the idea at the Churches Together meeting on 29 Jan Medjugorje still raising funds – plans going ahead.

Deanery – pilgrimage to Littlemore – in March TBC

## **9. What does it mean to be a Benedictine parish?**

Hoping to start morning prayer – possibly starting during LENT

Corner – of Old Confessional – to be used to celebrate Benedictine Life

Cluster meeting – Saturdays in Lent for talks by Fr Oliver possibly 15/22/ 29 March & April TBC

## **10. Use it or Lose it – our liturgy practices**

Two readers for Sunday Mass approved. Fr Oliver to intone the Alleluia at Mass

Discussion on how to support the parishes continual liturgical development. Idea of a brief hymn practice/ liturgical CPD before each of the Masses (in place of the music that FR A used to play) to help everyone keep in touch with Catholic traditions like the singing of the Salve Regina or the Sanctus / Agnus Dei / Credo

## **11. Any Other Business**

Fr Oliver proposed a name change for this committee: **Liturgy and Formation Committee** to distinguish it from the other group which also uses the word Faith. AGREED by all.

12. Date of Next Meeting -TBC

**Fr Oliver ended the meeting with a blessing.**