

Minutes Parish Pastoral Council meeting Tuesday October 19th 2021 7.30pm

Present: Father Walsh; Russell Brynes (chair); Peter Delamere; Peter Twomey; Kathleen Baster; Theresa Rice; Christine Hopewell; Columba Timmins (minutes).

Apologies: Dominic Rice; Catherine Evans; Mick Howell.

The meeting opened with prayer to the Holy Spirit.

- **Matters arising from previous minutes:**
- Cleaning rota going well. It is confirmed that cleaning materials and toilet roll will be sourced by Columba through Traidcraft. Peter T and Columba will look at ordering requirements and a possible system for re-ordering. Payment through parish office.
- The Notre Dame link teacher for students designing 'green' kitchen posters has changed and contact will be made again (Russell or Peter D?)
- SVP – visiting in pairs remains the best practical option for current home visits.
- Diocesan sponsorship Application Form 'Home from Home Hallam' has been completed and sent for preliminary checking to Reset –the UK Community Sponsorship co-ordinators – prior to submission to the Home Office.

Agenda.

Opening for Mass: There was discussion regarding ventilation during Mass now that there are greater numbers of people are coming together. Side windows and both entrance doors to remain open. Parishioners have been advised via the extended bulletin to wrap up well for Mass, because the church will not be as warm as usual. Whether to open the fire exit doors as an additional safety measure was discussed. It was decided to reserve this measure for individual occasions: eg it might be judged needed if the weather is unseasonably warm and/or the church is very full.

Church heating will not be switched off, but it is noted that gas prices are going up this winter and acknowledged that protective measures are incurring inevitable wastage.

Re-enforcing social distancing in the lines for communion would be advisable.

Kitchen and Hall bookings have reopened. Parish responsibility for the potential busy-ness of events in the Hall was discussed. It is considered that the primary parish responsibility lies in managing the safety of people coming to Mass. People coming to the hall for events may judge the environment for themselves and decide on leaving if they feel it is uncomfortably crowded, or wait a while before entering.

The Sign of Peace: Father is asked to pause a little before 'Lamb of God' to allow parishioners who wish to acknowledge each other during the sign of Peace, whether with a nod or a small wave.

Singing will resume at the Feast of Christ the King. Theresa R. is managing this ministry.

An invitation will go out in the bulletin asking for potential altar servers.

Coffee after Sunday morning Mass. Columba will liaise with Marie about this.

Formation. Children's liturgy: arrangements for restarting this are underway. The organiser is a teacher with young children and has knowledge and experience of any protective measures required in relation to safeguarding and Covid spread.

Evangelisation; rebuilding Communities. Father to write a newsletter for delivery to the 230 families in the Parish Directory. The logistics of the delivery still need some organisation, but building on existing contact lists developed during lockdown, the meeting members felt we could follow this through in time for Advent. Information on services and events through Advent could be included. Kathleen B. will check with Josh at The Hub as to what input he wishes to provide.

The Synod. *What are our experiences of journeying together in our Parish?* The Synodal process opened with a service presided over by Bishop Ralph at St. Marie's on October 17th. A recording of this is available through the Diocesan website. Preliminary information on the Synod process has gone out to the parish via the bulletin, parish website and whatsapp group, printed sheets in the Narthex and word of mouth.

Father prepared a printed pack for meeting members containing the letter he received from Fionnuala Frances and Kevan Grady who are the Diocesan contacts for the Synodal Process; a description of the Synodal process and what it means for us as laity with a step by step guide; and the explanatory talk given by Cardinal Nichols at the Westminster Cathedral Mass October 16th.

The meeting noted that parishes have been given a relatively short time for the process of understanding what the synod is about, engaging everyone in a parish, consultation, discussion and collation of responses.

To start the process in St. Vincent's it was decided to use the first step proposed by Cardinal Nichols:

Our conversations are to be based on our experience of living the faith. Recent months, the long months of the pandemic, have thrown fresh light on that experience. So we begin by listening to how we have lived our faith during this time, what has helped, what was missing, who was left out. We ask 'How did God touch my life in those long and difficult months?'

Questions based on this passage will be formed by Kathleen B. and emailed to Father for printing paper copies for the narthex. Peter D. will see they are written on the white board in the narthex.

They will be publicised in the parish bulletin and through the whatsapp group. There will be a post box provided by Peter T. in the Narthex for written comments and responses.

More extensive information on the Synodal process is to be found on the parish website and on the Diocesan website. Further items will be sent by Fionnuala and Kevan for the parish newsletter during the weeks ahead.

Father will continue to put out the request for 2 parish representatives to collate the responses for forwarding to the Diocese.

Live Simply and Covenant with the Poor items deferred.

Church Grounds : 2 Rainwater collection butts established – watering should be significantly easier next year, especially at the Fitzgerald Road side of the church. Pruning of overgrown trees to take place later in the autumn. Peter D. is aware of a ‘Green Flag’ award given to a church in another Diocese for their environmentally friendly grounds. He will follow this up further. ‘Live Simply’ guidelines are a good prompt for action in this area. There are various potential children’s activities mooted, such as making bird boxes and bug hotels.

AOB. Peter T. shared thoughts about **the outside crib** this year – using it to follow the season of Advent, building up to the Nativity scene itself, and involving the children of the parish. This could be done through children’s liturgy and/or St. Marie’s pupils. Kathleen B and Peter T. will follow up with respective contacts.

Advent wreath session as last year, but in person this time. There is greenery in the church grounds. The **UCM** are considering how to reset their meetings and activities. A morning Mass on Wednesdays followed by their meeting in the Hall might be more suitable in the new circumstances we find ourselves in and be a safe prospect for attending Mass and meeting up for those who find Sunday Masses too crowded.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 16 November 7.30pm.

The meeting closed with a prayer.