

Mary, Mother of God Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Thursday 24 June 2021 at 7pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom

1. JD led with an opening prayer.

2. Present: Joe Deegan (Chair) Father Paul Grogan, Father Peter Morkah, Bernadette Benyon, Ben Lavin, Moira Page, Michelle Vink, Eve Wright , Sandra Scully, Christian Oldcorn

3. Apologies: Agnes Tetteh (Vice), Sean Kilduff, Julia Mason, Monica Spyrka, Lissa Oldcorn. Ellie Rose Henry

4. Matters arising

5. Father Paul gave an update on Divine Renovation describing it as a “Life Coach for Priests”. It is a Parish Renewal initiative focussing on Missionary objectives inside / outside the parish rather than the maintenance of existing Parish practices.

6. Father Paul advised that we are also a Beacon Parish under the Million Minutes programme which is aimed at developing our mission to young people.

7. These minutes should be read alongside the Reports from the various Parish Groups which provide a lot more detail.

8. Group matters

9. Faith and Light----Sandra enthusiastically updated the meeting about the formal incorporation of Faith and Light into the parish. Sandra had attended a training event. The group meets once a month after mass. It raises funds for the parish and often runs a stall after mass. There are 86 communities of Faith and Light with 12 in the UK. In February we have been asked to host the Faith and Light Yorkshire Group at which the Mini Vinnies and the Youth of the parish will help out.

10. UCM-----Bernadette updated the meeting that a question had been raised nationally on the viability of the UCM . The national leaders have asked if the UCM has come to the end of its useful life but if the answer is "NO" then what each parish can do to ensure that the UCM continues. Our Group are responding. Bernadette hoped that the UCM in our parish would continue. It was hoped that we could attend the meeting being held to discuss the future of the UCM nationally.

11. SVP-----See group report for further details. Moira advised that the SVP ran as two separate conferences St Johns and St Winefrides but that the work was similar and there was potential for synergy. The SVp were liaising with Catholic Care and Faith and Light.

12-----St Bedes and St Josephs---See group report for further details. Christian told the meeting about the introduction of a school diploma based on the Diocesan Faith in Action award

13. Older Peoples Group-----Michelle updated the meeting on the works being carried out including the provision of hot meals, the community market . Help was being given by the schools.

13 Primary Schools-- BL outlined the various initiatives in our Primary schools. including Virtual rosary sessions, collective worship in class bubbles, live class masses, Penpals with elderly . Ben also told us about the Minny Vinnies with a view to developing Prayer Leaders and "Pupil Chaplains". Minny Vinnies were Primary School age range, followed by Youth SVP (11-14 years) and then YCW Young Christian Workers 14+

14 Eco action group---Eve advised that it had not been easy to move things along due to covid and her studies ---garden works and tree planting initiatives had taken place.

15 Discussion relating to Bishop's document which can be summarised as "Parish--maintenance to Mission"

16 Father Paul outlined the content of the Bishops' paper to the clergy. Instead of consolidation we should be considering "Near" and "Far" evangelisation. "Near" could mean our families and "far" could mean people new to the church. The clergy and lay representatives are to discuss a Diocesan plan for evangelisation. It was recognised that every parish is different. Some are thriving for example due to an upsurge in eastern European parishioners. We should aim to categorise where our efforts should be aimed although it was difficult to evaluate where we are post covid. We need to do our own thing as a parish. Through our work on the Shared Leadership Team we are probably further along the line than most. Father Paul proposed that we focus on three targeted groups--- Families, Young People and People outside the church. It was noted that whilst these groups were stated all age groups should be part of the initiative. On that basis rather than "Families" we should

refer to the "Parish Family". We should review the current situation when the doors are fully open again post lockdown.

19 Finances-----Father Paul summarised that the parish was fluctuating in and out of debt. We were currently in debt again but it was hoped that the situation might improve when things got back to normal with income increasing due to rental income on the presbytery and the caretakers house and income due to letting the halls. Uptake of standing orders to be encouraged as it provides a regular non fluctuating income.

20 Other Business

21 An offer of Funding (£5000) from the Grail Project. Consideration to be given to suitable projects . all to consider and advise JD.

22 40 hours devotion 16 to 18 July. Groups to sign up for an allocated time.

23. Interviews to be held for the post of a Parish Youth Worker (Grant funded) on a 3 year contract. The Diocese had assisted with job descriptions etc. to be held 1 July . This is a great opportunity for our parish.

24 Father Paul posed the question about the effectiveness of the PPC. It was agreed that its effectiveness had been stifled due to Covid and not being able to meet in person. We need to be patient as we are in extraordinary times.

25 Father Paul reported the problems he was facing due to the lack of a Parish Secretary. This was recognised and we would aim to restore this position once funds were available.

26 Date of next Meeting

27 Thursday 23 September at 7 pm (venue / format TBC)

28 Dates of Future Meetings

Please make a note in your diaries of the following meeting dates

Thursday 23 September 2021 7pm

Thursday 16 December 2021 7pm

Thursday 24 March 2022 7pm

Thursday 23 June 2022 7pm

Thursday 22 September 2022 7pm

Thursday 15 December 2022 7pm