

Minutes of Joint Pastoral Committee meeting Wednesday 2nd November 2022, OLR Parish Centre

The meeting started at 19:07

Attendees: Nick Price, Geraldine Briggs, Tojo Mathew, David Beglan, Caroline Rother, Agnieszka Pawlak, Estela Simkins, Peter Oakshott, Judith Barnes, Mary Oakshott, Sandra Wilk, Cheryl Wood, Marylou Cockshoot, Nick Woodall (Chair), Fr Kevin Dring

1. Fr Kevin opened in prayer – with a prayer by Blessed Charles de Fourcauld

2. Nick W welcomed everyone to the meeting and took **Apologies** from: Halina Dominik, John Purcell, Helen French, Greg Folwell, Linda Miller, Lucy Parkin

3. Minutes and matters arising – Wednesday Mass remains at 11am for the time being.

4. Pastoral Assistant report (Caroline Rother):

- Role to support the catechists
- Has met with Lumen Christi team
- Plans to meet with FHC team
- Networking with other parishes and deaneries – eg Advent booklets
- Relaunching the Giving Tree for this coming Christmas
- Ideas for the future – youth ministry, day of evaluation in 6 months to discuss what's working and what isn't.
- Nick P asking about co-ordinated start for children's liturgy – yes, that is the plan
- Caroline is currently working 8 hours per week and is happy with this
- Nick W thanked her for the great start she has made

5. Fr Kevin's report:

- Thanked Caroline for her work, describing her as diligent and conscientious
- Realignment of Sunday Masses has proven very useful
- Ongoing response to offers of help in the context of census. Now looking at the more sensitive areas which require more discernment.
- Mass counts: 850 average in parish each Sunday with new parishioners joining
- 30 baptisms per year
- 40 FHC sign-ups
- Lumen Christi – Nick W declared 2 regular members at present
- RCIA starting up soon
- New website planned
- New database is proving very useful
- Monthly Open Church Day due to start soon – 4 hours on a Saturday – 2 people per hour welcoming – prayer walk with prayer sheets and prayer stations. Large display banner.

Parishioner packs containing information on all aspects of parish life. Launching in mid-November.

- Discussed outreach to those who are not active in attending at present – SVP and Linking Lives – visiting the elderly/befriending.
- Homeless project – Cheryl Wood involved here. Health and safety/COVID regulations still preclude Winter Night Shelter, but funding available for hire of property to provide meal for pre-registered homeless individuals – we will cover one night per week - 2hr sessions - to be trialled end of Nov with a view to full roll-out in December
- Vision Prayer to be created and rolled-out at Advent – subgroup to meet later this month?

6. Diocesan Pastoral Plan discussion (looking at the 2022 document “The Word Who is Life: a look to the future in a Post-Pandemic Setting”)

- Fr K stated that Bishop Richard wants to meet with the 11 parishes within the Deanery in the New Year.
- We are ALL missionaries because we are baptised – we all have a duty
- Centricity of Prayer, Formation and Mission are important
- New Stable Lay Ministries of Lector, Acolyte and Catechist – more committed role involving discernment, formation and commission by the Bishop – for life. Time period over next few years.
- Cheryl observed that the general theme of the document echoes what was discussed in the Synodal process in respect of involvement of the laity, but how do we reach out to those who have not returned (para 4.3)? Marylou stated she was aware of individuals who were “waiting to be missed”. Fr K commented that livestream could be used to appeal to those watching from home. Mary: website could also be helpful in this role. Caroline observed that knocking on doors can be intimidating. Fr K suggested that Mass attenders who know people who have stayed away could approach them. Nick W observed that it was our responsibility as Missionaries to approach such people. Fr K stated he will commission a welcoming card which could be taken by attenders and delivered those not currently attending, inviting them to return.
- Marylou highlighted para 4.7: fairtrade, social action – perhaps a topic for a Thursday evening talk? David sought clarification on what “disinvested from fossil fuels” meant; this refers to financial investment by the diocese rather than any cessation of fossil fuel use on a parish basis.
- Cheryl highlighted para 6.1, raising awareness of the Gifts of the Spirit in the context of discipleship. Para 7.3 – catechesis in the home. Para 7.5 – first reconciliation and FHC – consideration of a more individual approach, based on discernment? Judith observed that there would be a risk of “losing” children, which the meeting acknowledged. Nick W stated that a more individual approach is something we are trying to achieve with Lumen Christi and the young people are frequently reminded that this is their **first** opportunity to receive the Sacrament, not their last. Mary observed that, during the time of stricter COVID measures, FHC was individual and seemed more meaningful.
- Caroline mentioned Paul’s letter to Ephesians as guidance for this process – empowering the church
- Fr K confirmed that the new stable lay ministries are being proposed worldwide

7. Vision Prayer working group:

Cheryl, Mary, Peter, Marylou and Nick W volunteered.

8. Prayerwalk Booklet:

The meeting was unanimous in thanking Mary and Doug Robertson for their hard work in compiling this.

AOB: None

Nick W closed in prayer at 20:30

Next meeting likely to be in the New Year with Bishop Richard