



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, 6 October 2019 – Old Chapel, 7pm

Minutes of Meeting

1. Opening Prayer

- The prayer used was the prayer said by Pope John XXIII at the opening of the Second Vatican Council.

2. Attendance

- Those present: Fr Ignatius, Fr Joseph, Andrew Richardson, Neil D'Aguiar, Ruth Kibirango, Eion McCusker, Anthea Davies, Sandra Batty, Cecilia Hatt, Rosemary McDermot, Jommy Thadathil, Manny Engage, and Elspeth Casey.
- Those absent: C J Harding

3. Brief self-introduction by members:

- Members briefly introduced themselves and their background to the rest of the group.

4. Opening Remarks:

- Fr Ignatius referred members to the pastoral letter about the importance and role of the PPC and welcomed members. (Copy at the end of the minutes)

5. Election of Officers:

- The following were elected by consensus decision:
- Chair – Andrew Richardson
- Vice-Chair – Eoin
- Secretary – Neil D'Aguiar Deputy Secretary – Anthea Davies
 - The Chair took over leading the meeting from this point.

6. SWOT Analysis:

- All present contributed, below is a summary of some points from the discussion.
- What is OLI for?
 - Place of worship and for the community
 - To receive the sacraments
 - To support the parishioners and the local community

- What are our **strengths** as a parish?
 - Visible church building of high standard
 - Good accessible location in the community
 - High quality and effective school linked to the parish and in parish grounds
 - Wide range of people in the parish
 - New people joining all the time who show a willingness to be involved
 - Young dynamic clergy and presence of a deacon
 - Children involved with Masses (especially 9am Mass)
 - Core group of teenagers who attend Mass and are dedicated involvement
 - Modern parish in terms of liturgy and involvement
 - Twice daily Masses
 - Building open through the day
 - Very dedicated core group of people helping the parish
 - Strong catechesis programme for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

- What are the **weaknesses**?
 - Seating and welcoming of latecomers to the Mass
 - Possible respectfulness and lack of understanding of children leading the offertory at the 11am Mass
 - A number of parishioners who were very involved in the parish have left over the past few years
 - Vocations especially to the religious life needs to be fostered and understood more
 - Quote from Timothy Radcliffe “our current generation of young people are experiencing a more spirit-less faith than ever before”
 - Lots of talented people in the parish whose talents are unknown and unused by the parish – how do we learn and tap that potential?
 - How are we succession planning for future generations?
 - Bonding and understanding between different parish groups
 - Lack of links with other denominations
 - Lack of understanding of the charitable and other events that take place in our parish and which people you can turn to for what
 - Serious financial challenges faces the parish – update from Finance Committee at next PPC meeting.

- What are the **opportunities**?
 - Chance to involve young people in the social and charitable life of the parish and promote the value of the parish to them
 - Use of the Diocesan Faith in Action programme, or parish missions from teams like [Sion](#) or [Catholic Voices](#).
 - More understanding of formation and greater communication of current events, encyclicals and teachings of the Church

- Where do we want to be in the future?
 - Strong vibrant growing community
 - Succession of people to take over and continue key roles
 - Support for parents with young children and teens
 - More opportunities to get together, share and learn

7. Provisional report from the parish priest

- Parish facilities
 - We have good high quality facilities – Church, Hall, Old Chapel and Bungalow
 - Unfortunately, there is no current contract or formal arrangements for usage, repair costs, or maintenance – this is a clear risk to the parish and to these resources
 - The Diocesan Trustees have given advice for parishes in similar situations and David Smith (an advisor on property) will be coming to the parish to meet with Fr Ignatius, members of the PPC and the long-term users of the resources to help find a way forward.
- The Year of the Word
 - Starts on 1st Sunday of Advent
 - PPC to reflect on how the Year of the Word can be used to grow and motivate the parish.

8. A.O.B

- Permission was granted by members for:
 - The collection of their mobile phone numbers
 - Collection and sharing of their email addresses among the group
- There will be a reconstitution of the Parish Finance Committee who will make a statement of finances available for every PPC meeting.
- Names of PPC members and the role of the PPC will be shared via the newsletter next Sunday, and will be placed on the Parish website along with the minutes of meetings.
- One aim of the PPC is to use their skills and talents to assist the clergy in the running of the parish which will inevitably free time for the clergy to see to the pastoral needs of our community.
- There is a need to consider and reflect on the ways we communicate with each other and with the parish – could this be an opportunity to help inform and enthuse people?
- The opening hours for the repository are on a notice outside the repository – it is open and run by volunteers at these times, but unavoidable absence sometimes occurs.

9. Date for the next meeting

- Sunday 1st December 7.15pm (Coffee and tea from 7pm)

10. Closing Prayer

Action points from meeting:

1. Please bring diaries to the next meeting as we hope to plan the dates for PPC meetings for 2020.
2. Please either send Fr Ignatius or Andrew (Chair) a recent photo of yourself or be prepared for a photo to be taken of you at the next PPC meeting. These photos will be on a noticeboard in the church.
3. Once the date of David Smith's visit to the parish is confirmed by Fr Ignatius – please could PPC members be available to attend the meeting to support Fr Ignatius and help the process.
4. PPC to reflect on the upcoming Year of the Word and bring suggestions on parish implementation to the next meeting.