

## **Corpus Christi and Our lady of Lourdes Justice and Peace Group**

### **A Live Simply and Fairtrade Parish.**

Synodal Pathway Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Opened with the Prayer for the Synod

#### **What is it like for me to be part of the J & P group in this Parish?**

- The group is sustaining and challenging, we are trying to “do the Gospel”.
- A way to bring about the Kingdom and respond to Pope Francis “The Cry of the earth and the Cry of the Poor”.
- The group provides the way to live out Jesus’ instruction in Matthew 25 – feed the hungry etc.
- The group feels a bit tangential to the parish, is it embedded?

#### **The Parish as a community**

- Community activities have been seriously curtailed by the Pandemic.
- There are several communities within the parish: the different Mass communities 9, 11, 6.30pm and Our Lady of Lourdes; those from diverse cultures – from the Philippines, East Timor, South India, other European countries, and different age groups sacramental programmes etc.
- Due to the size of the Parish, parishioners’ commitments, work patterns it is difficult for it to become one parish community. Does this matter? Do we need to have a broader community?
- Are we a welcoming Church? Belonging and being welcomed into community is very important for some especially for those on their own
  - Welcoming people, without pressure, is important. It would be possible to greet people as they arrive for Mass and give out Hymn books and Liturgy sheets. A “Meet and Greet” ministry could be helpful; some churches have occasional tea parties for new parishioners.
- The culture of the parish is important; it needs to be developed.

#### **Consideration of Parish structures**

- We should not expect Fr. Mervyn to do everything. We are the church, if we want to do something we have to accept responsibility.
- Parish Council – should be representative of the diverse communities, have a Lay Chair, have a point of contact, publish minutes and names of members.
- Youth - limited contact after the sacramental programmes finishes at 11, they are the Church’s future, need ways to engage and should be youth led. Potential for involvement in Climate Justice

#### **Is Live Simply Embedded within the Parish? Existing and potential J & P opportunities at home and globally?**

- We hope that Live Simply principles have been embedded personally in parishioner’s lives and wish to continue to see them embedded them in the Parish.
- Projects and initiatives both local and global have enabled parishioners to come together, many of these are ecumenical working together with churches in Headington and Wheatley.
  - Live Simply, Connect 2 Ethiopia, Foodbank, Fairtrade, building a church and supporting a school in the Philippines, supporting Gatehouse homeless centre with clothing and annual soup making, Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal, Thursday Lunch Club
- Going forward - Campaign to choose banks which invest ethically – important for Parish and Diocesan accounts <https://bank.green>. Projects could include Street pastors and becoming a Welcoming Church for Refugees.

#### **General Themes**

- We need to build back better
- Process of Encounter / Listen / Discern
- The laity need to be empowered; discernment belongs to the laity as well as to Bishops.