

Minutes

Corpus Christi and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Pastoral Council Saturday 9th March 2024 – 12.00-13.30, Parish Hall, Headington

A welcoming and dynamic Catholic community, with the Eucharist at the centre, reaching out to all.

Present: Fr. Mervyn, Sharon Taylor, Sr Marie Anne, Ruth Kennell, John Guy, John Kirwan, John Hanlon, Shalini Lalvani, Anna Brooke, Sula Wiltshire, Maureen O’Neill

The meeting opened with a prayer.

1. **Apologies from:** Edwina Vernon, Mark Lafferty, Nick Kenworthy-Brown
2. **Minutes of last meeting** – 9th December 2023- Approved
3. **Matters arising from the minutes** (not covered by items on the agenda)

- Parish Guide- awaiting news from ML
- Notice boards (SL)- Action: Shalini will work to update the notices to be less historic and more relevant, in consultation with Leti.
- Finance - progress with PV Panels for CC Church roof - FM suggested a consultation to update on costings, etc.

4. **Communication with PPC - suggestions received from parishioners and how they are responded to?**

A number of suggestions were received and considered. Some queries could be dealt with by the parish office and it was agreed that, where this was not the case and a specific response was required, the individual submitting the suggestion would be contacted.

- **Visiting and supporting people in the parish who are lonely, ill, etc.** To some extent eucharistic ministers, and others, supported FM in this and there was not currently a St Vincent de Paul (SVP) group in the parish, who would have also contributed to this in the past. JK undertook to enquire of several other parishes whether they have SVP groups. The importance of flagging up appropriate existing sources of support in different areas, within or beyond the parish, was also recognised (e.g. Bereavement Support, Marriage Care, Fr Hudson’s Society) and this could, in future, be enhanced via the revamped noticeboards and/or website. Further consideration needed.
- **Safeguarding & support resources available.** RK (as Safeguarding Officer) gave a short update. The Diocese is very supportive, offers advice, and highlights a range of relevant resources (e.g. Safe Spaces – a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal, and safe space for anyone who has been abused by someone in the Church or as a result of their relationship with the Catholic Church in England and Wales. <https://safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/> . A key initiative underway is a safeguarding review of the Parish. RK is implementing Diocesan guidance, not least to confirm the scope and currency of DBS checks. In due course, RK will be able to offer certificated Safeguarding Training where needed.
- **Quiet time for prayer after Masses** – FM to respond.
- **Running Alpha courses** – JK to respond on resources for evangelisation and formation.
- **Other suggestions** – these gave some ideas and requests around resources (e.g. for young people) and would be considered in due course.

5. **Vision & Mission & Synodality – review of mission focus areas and responsibilities - next steps.**

The PPC considered a ‘Next Steps’ handout and parish flow diagram depicting inter-relationships between relevant areas of parish life, centred on Liturgy and Prayer. Discussion centred around what the next steps should be in terms of the main areas identified in our Vision and Mission statement (Liturgy and Worship, Evangelisation and Formation, Parish Family, Social and Social Outreach, Co-responsibility), which align very closely with the Diocesan Vision and outputs from the ‘Great Catholic Parishes’ (GCP) research study from the USA. Responsibility for each of the strands was identified and some work was needed to identify groups and activities which fell

under each. It was agreed that more dedicated time needed to be spent considering priorities and resources and an away day/half day was suggested, which might draw in part upon GCP discussion resources. **Action** JK/FM

Synodal pathway a document had been promulgated by the Vatican to Bishops – ‘Towards 2024’ - in preparation for the next Vatican Synodal meeting in October. It was agreed that how we developed as a synodal parish needed to be considered in the framework of developments in the Church and the Diocesan Vision (co-responsibility being one aspect). **Action** It was agreed that RK would coordinate a discussion on being a synodal parish in the coming months.

6. **Parish renewal approaches – update on the ‘Called & Gifted’ (C&G) discernment process**

JK gave more details of the ‘Called & Gifted’ discernment process, which helps parishioners and priests to identify, understand and then apply their ‘Charisms’ (those spiritual gifts given directly to each of the baptised to help build up the Church community in so many ways). The C&G process involves 3 stages – initial identification of possible charisms, a 1:1 discernment meeting with a trained facilitator, and then testing out of charisms, with support in small groups, over several months. Overall, it involves a 6-8 month process of prayerful discernment and the fruits are often seen in increased confidence, commitment and engagement with the Church’s mission, benefiting the individual and the parish. See: <https://www.calledandgifted.org.uk/> The PPC was supportive of C&G and FM invited JK to make a presentation about it to the Deanery priests on 12th March.

a) Evangelisation & Formation (welcome, ‘Good News’, faith development) - [JK, ST, NKB and JH]

Brief updates were received on Journey in Faith and the Sycamore/Café style sessions on prayer and Catholic life. Both offer opportunities for new and established parishioners to explore the Faith in an informal and supportive way. Several enquirers were being accompanied by members of the parish, with a view to reception into the Church.

b) Liturgy & Worship (inc. prayer, sacramental preparation, ecumenical fellowship) – [Fr M Sr M-A principally]

The Day of Reflection in Lent at the Priory attracted an attendance of 50 and the PPC endorsed FM’s suggestion that we should have a similar day each Advent and Lent.

Year of Prayer 2024 is ongoing, with a Jubilee Year from Advent 2025 –

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lent-and-easter>

Ecumenism – Headington Churches and Wheatley – [AB & JG are links] - brief updates were received. Wheatley has active ongoing ecumenical cooperation in a number of areas. Headington less so and recent initiatives there appear to focus on a number of environmental approaches and initiatives (e.g. ‘Sponge Headington’, Lye Valley water project). Future opportunities for ecumenical engagement, both spiritual and practical, would be highlighted, as they arise, in the parish newsletter, etc. There will be an AGM of Headington Churches, on 24th April at 7pm, at St Andrews (Headington).

c) Social Outreach (incl. Action for a Fairer World/Justice and Peace; support for those in need) – [AFW/J&P group principally]

- i. The Justice and Peace group has re-named itself ‘Action for a Fairer World/Justice and Peace – as this has more contemporary appeal, particularly with the young. It last met on 6th March and minutes will soon be available.
- ii. Climate Coalition Letter - open letter to leaders of political parties (in conjunction with Cafod), was considered and FM agreed that he would sign it on behalf of the parish.
- iii. Recyclable cups for events – there was an indeterminate discussion around this. On balance, it seemed that they were a good option - where available.
- iv. Homelessness – SW highlighted that this is a continuing scourge and work to support the homeless continues through assistance at the night shelter, collections, including of relevant items, and prayer.
- v. MINISTRY research project (‘Implementing dementia support interventions via Christian community’). This project aims to focus on dementia care support, looking at whether a recently trialled dementia support intervention called NIDUS-Family intervention can be implemented by church communities. Further details from Dr Joseph Kwon - joseph.kwon@phc.ox.ac.uk. FM is eager to support this research as it unfolds.

7. **Social Activities & Events** – [SL]. SL gave a short update and would provide further details shortly. Bring and Share lunch with the Bishop on 10th March. Quiz night, Sunday evening 12th May, Bring and Share lunch after Pentecost Mass on Sunday 19th May, 12.00. **Action** SL to send Google Diary link and list of events/dates.

8. **Finance Council update** – (Finance, building & resources)

- i. Finance Council meets regularly to review parish finances (which are currently sound). Membership is: FM, Christopher Barrie, Martin Taylor, Patricia Warnock and Veronica Cowdrey. PPC will be consulted about relevant resources.
- ii. Donating to charity from parish events (e.g. fete's, FHL etc, Christmas crib). In principle it was agreed that a percentage of proceeds should be given to agreed charities, albeit the mechanics of this needed to comply with any financial regulations. It may be that charitable causes need to be identified in advance and a percentage earmarked, separate from parish funds. **Action** Finance Council to consider.
- iii. Building works - anything above £10K in Finance needs Diocesan approval. The Wheatley Rectory is to be renovated.

9. **Membership of PPC** - was discussed briefly. It would be reviewed, in due course, in light of emerging needs and priorities.

10. MO gave apologies for 8th June meeting and ST agreed to take minutes.

11. There was no other business and the meeting closed with a prayer.

https://d.docs.live.net/7055aade996d7b57/Minutes_PPC_CC_OLL_9th_Mar_2024_Mo_JK.docx