

Minutes

Parish Pastoral Council

Corpus Christi and Our Lady of Lourdes

Saturday 21st June 2025, Corpus Christi Presbytery, Headington

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

Present: Fr Mervyn, Sr Marie Ann, John Guy, Ruth Kennell, John Kirwan, Marc Lafferty, Shalini Lalvani, Sharon Taylor, Sula Wiltshire. **Apologies:** Anna Brooke, Maureen O'Neill, Nevin Vuddamalay.

1. **Welcome and opening prayer**
2. **Minutes of last meeting** – 8th March 2025 were approved
3. **Matters arising from the minutes** (not covered by items on the agenda)

It was confirmed that the newsletter is now being given out at all weekend masses.

4. **Safeguarding update (RK)** – There is a considerable workload involved, with a number of people to be put through the system (e.g. the new SVP group members have all had to be checked) and this takes considerable time. Pam Coote is now on board to help RK with this though. One issue has been that overseas nationals require more checking and this can make the process longer and more arduous. Appreciation was expressed for the ongoing commitment of RK to this essential activity.

5. **Social activities and Plans** – A fete flyer has been put on the notice board along with events taking place in June, July and August. Two coaches have been booked for the parish social trip to Bournemouth in August. SL was thanked for her efforts in coordinating the extensive range of parish social activities.

6. **Vision and Mission areas progress -**

a) **Evangelisation and Formation (Good News, faith development)**

The Called and Gifted discernment process commences on Saturday 13th September, with the initial training day being led by the Portsmouth Diocese C&G Team. We are the first parish in the Birmingham Diocese to offer C&G and the deadline for registering is quite early in August. Two short advertising videos were shown to PPC. The first from the Catherine of Siena Institute, the authors of C&G and the second showed parishioners from the USA giving their experience of discovering their charisms and using them through C&G.

JK had met recently with JH and ST to discuss the time-line for C&G and plans to promote it, including producing a flyer, social media, links in the newsletter and possible talks after masses. **Action:** JK/Fr M. All: to encourage sign ups.

Fr M observed that how we help people deepen their relationship with Jesus must be borne in mind in all our evangelisation and formation work.

b) **Social Outreach (inc. J and P/Action for a Fairer World: support for those in need, ecumenical outreach)**

i. **SVP group update** – JH provided a comprehensive note on progress in setting up the group.

There are currently 12 members of the SVP who meet at the Priory every two weeks. The group has been up and running for 6 months. Members have been liaising with Fr M and various internal and external groups to gauge potential needs (including the parish Lunch Group). The group will make presentations to the parish on 6th & 7th September rather than, October 4th and 5th, which proved not to be convenient due to clashes with the pre-arranged Cafod Harvest Day activities. **Action:** Greater checking and use of parish diary to be made by groups to avoid clashes. Groups most likely to be affected are SVP and AfW/J&P.

ii. **The Action for a Fairer World (J&P) group** minutes were circulated in advance to PPC members.

iii. **Ecumenical Matters** – The Friends of the Holy Land concert is scheduled for 28th June at Our Lady of Lourdes. The FHL raffle has been postponed until September. Clare the new C of E vicar at Wheatley appears proactive and keen to share in forthcoming events.

The Lye Valley Children's event organised by Headington Churches was enjoyed but unfortunately not well attended.

c) **Liturgy and Worship (inc. prayer, sacramental preparation)**

i. **Sacramental preparation** – we have 27 children receiving their First Holy Communion and 38 Confirmation candidates. Sr M was thanked for her hard work in preparing the children. Concern was expressed, however, about how much extra organisation of the practicalities that Sr M had taken on and the PPC agreed with Fr M that further support needed to be given to Sr M for this in future. **Action:** Fr M

ii. **Welcoming at Mass initiative:** This was still developing and slowly embedding - Our lady of Lourdes (W) – good, 9am CC – good, 11am CC – less good, 6.30 CC – practically non-existent. Further encouragement to be given in a way suited to each Mass community.

Eucharistic Ministers – 9am – covered by rota, 11am – covered by rota, 6.30 – **Action:** RK is going to organise a rota.

d) **Co-responsibility** – website/parish information, notice boards and guide - SL gave feedback as to progress. SL, JK and Fr M have had various discussions in recent months. SL & JK to meet again to review.

7. **Suggestions from parishioners for the PPC**

i. **Books for children** – ST shared ideas with the PPC regarding free faith books for children from 6-16 that they can take home. This will be paid for from events organised by ST. The PPC agreed that it was a good project and ST will organise it.

ii. **Communion under both kinds** – another suggestion had been made since the last meeting and further discussion ensued about receiving the precious blood of Jesus. **Action:** it was agreed that ST and NV, in liaison with Fr M, would look at practical proposals for potentially re-introducing this at weekend masses.

8. **Membership of PPC**

Membership was reviewed and it was agreed to stagger terms of office for the PPC. **Action:** JK to circulate a list for members, whose terms of office were coming to an end in September 2025, for them to confirm whether they wished to serve for a further term (i.e. of one, two, or three years).

9. **Finance Council** – (Finance, building and resources)

i. **Collections for appeals at weekend Masses** – relatively small numbers use the Dona machines, whereas regular weekly standing order donations, in comparison, have many contributors. The possibility of using basket collections for second collections might need to be re-considered. A new Diocesan approach is to be launched soon, the 'Planned Giving Campaign' and this could serve as an opportunity for the whole area of donations and regular giving to be reviewed. **Action:** Finance Council.

ii. **Ecology audit** – JH & JK had investigated this, meeting with a representative from an engineering firm specialising in renewable approaches (ETCH Associates). JH had since received a quote for an energy audit. **Action:** JH to report back on quote and potential further action at next PPC meeting. Sr M is also investigating potential grants for improving community places.

Next Meeting: Saturday 6th September at 12.00 in the CC parish hall.

ST/JK