

St Joseph's Pastoral Council Meeting

Thursday 3rd November 2022

Those present: Fr Ansel (Fr A) Peter T (PT) (Chair) Mary (MT) Irene (IC) Lesley(LK) Johanna (JM) Peter E (PE) Michele (MB)

Opening Prayer: Mary

1. Apologies: Dcn Hugh, Emma, Pete B

Welcome extended to Fr A and to MB on their first PC meeting at St Joseph's

2. Minutes of the meeting of 21st April were agreed.

3. Fr A thanked everyone for their welcome and apologised for the postponed meeting. He spoke about his background, his education and business experience.

St Joseph's is his fourth parish after seminary training; he has experience of youth, school and prison chaplaincy and spent a year of further study in Rome.

He apologised for decisions made without consultation due to time pressure.

He has taken a vow of fidelity and some decisions come under church law

He is currently working a 70 hour week (this should reduce)

PC Members responses:

Our role is to serve the parish (PT)

Fr A can delegate many admin tasks and focus on his role as pastor and spiritual leader(IC)

PC should meet again end of November to examine issues in more detail (PT)

The PC 'carried' the community during the Pandemic and the parish has grown (MT)

The PC did an amazing job; the inclusivity and welcome at St Joseph's is exceptional (MB)

Over 200 volunteers were involved at one stage...now probably nearer 300 (IC)

Updates

4(a) Finance (IC)

Current debt is £35,500; we are gradually cutting down expenses.

Finance should support the mission of the parish, not the other way round.

Church income has not returned to pre-pandemic levels; all charitable donations are down.

Next move is 'Giftaid Sunday'.

PT thanked IC for clear financial reporting.

4(b) Youth Ministry (PE on behalf of Emma)

Prior to Emma's appointment, PE was liaising with volunteers and chaplains at St Peter's.

Four local clergy attended a coffee morning at St Peter's, where Emma talked about her work and the numbers of young people ministering at St Joseph's.

Lasallian awards are being introduced; St Peter's has 40/50 young Lasallian leaders.

St Peter's has students not attached to a parish; they may come to St Joseph's for parish-based service.

Pete B emailed concerns about changes to the Family Mass; no sorry prayer; no adapted readings or action songs. Fr A spoke about the liturgical action of the Mass and the liturgical norms.

Emma is working full-time hours on a part-time contract; she is developing expertise.

IC suggested that PE look at workload with Emma to assess.

Fr A is happy for Emma to continue beyond February and has been in touch with the Diocese.

The unanimous view of the meeting is that we support Emma and want to keep her.

4(c)PT:

CfoC: There is much work to do in terms of communication and partnership.

Faith Matters: How do we find and reach out to people in need now that the SVP has gone?
(Focus for the next PC meeting)

4(d)Foodbank and Safeguarding(LK)

Tracey at Foodbank has been ill.

Des has stepped down as Safeguarding minister; admin and training needs could be separated to reduce workload. Admin and form-filling does not address the safeguarding needs of the parish. LK will meet with Fr A to discuss further.

4(e)Alpha (PE)

The most recent Alpha in the Summer was very successful; ten people are now involved with another programme to take them further. Small groups help people to feel welcomed and valued. The next Alpha will take place in Lent.

Fr A spoke about the new evangelisation; the role of the priest is to evangelise the people who then evangelise those they meet out in the world

5. The Diocesan Ten Year Plan: You will be My Witnesses

The Ten Year Plan gives a picture of steady decline- but our parish “works”. The Diocese should be asking why some places work- could these not be models of good practice?

We need to know where we are first in order to know where we want to get to (PE)

The consultation deadline is 15th December for responses to the Diocese.

Monday 7th November Presentation on the Ten Year Plan

Fr A will give a Powerpoint presentation in the church.

Then groups will gather in the parish centre for group discussion

Pete B has offered technical support.

Everyone should be urged to read the document; there is a shorter version available.

Individual responses should be sent in by **21st November**.

LK and PE offered to collate all responses by **28th November**.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday 29th November at 7pm after Liturgy of the Word.

(Date confirmed and parish centre booked)