

St Joseph's Pastoral Council Meeting

Tuesday 29th November 2022

Those present: Fr Ansel (Fr A) Dcn Hugh (DH) Peter T (PT) (Chair) Mary (MT) Irene (IC) Lesley(LK) Emma (EE) Pete B (PB) Johanna (JM) Peter E (PE) Michele (MB)

Opening Prayer: Peter T

1. Apologies: None: all members present

2. Minutes of the meeting of 3rd November were agreed.

3(i) Fr A Report: There is a leak in the parish office and a smell in the back room.

Fr A will liaise with Bob to investigate

3(ii) DH Updates: Christmas Liturgies have been agreed as follows:

Christmas Day- Sunday masses as normal in both parishes. 9am mass at St Josephs will be live-streamed

Saturday evening (Christmas Eve)- Family Mass at St Josephs at 4pm; Vigil Mass at HR at 5pm; Vigil Mass at St Josephs at 8pm(with screens)

EE is looking at the possibility of a crib service in the morning on Christmas Eve

Wendy will prepare a card with all the details when she returns next week

4. The Ten Year Plan: LK & PE:

The parish responses have been collated and emailed to the Diocese; a hard copy was also posted. The diocesan response form was not easy to complete online, so not used. There were a couple of late submissions added in, along with some direct quotes. The document will be posted on the parish website with a link from the newsletter and a thank you to all who responded. It is not clear if only feedback from parish groups will be accepted. PT reported that a parishioners (Claire R-G) sent a personal response, including some suggestions, and received a positive response from Heather Hauschild (Diocese CEO) The consultation deadline is 15th December, so people can still send in their comments. Phase 1 of the plan is due to start in January 2023. PE asked how this is possible with such a short timescale. Some adjustment of pastoral areas is likely.

PT expressed thanks to LK and PE for all their hard work on this.

5. Brief Updates from members

Finance:

PT thanked IC for an excellent report on the 2021-22 financial year.

Giftaid Sunday is the next planned event and parishioners can also consent to this on the new PAMIS form; there are currently some problems with the form. Once people give their consent, this is forever.

PT asked about fuel costs for the parish- not known at present.

LK said that the Foodbank is 'in the thick of it' at present. PE said that people are prepared to give money when they know it is for something specific, such as our youth project; this money can be ring-fenced. IC explained that Diocesan financial codings had been obscured and it is possible that we could have ring-fenced money earlier in the year; Ursula is investigating.

Youth Ministry (EE)

Both Youth clubs are doing well, with a waiting list for the juniors and about 15 attending the older group.

Children from seven schools are involved with FHC this year.

Tara, a Year 3 teacher from St Peter's Primary would like to build links with the parish; a group of children may even come along to Becky's café to sing.

Children connected with the Foodbank may be sponsored to come to the Christmas party. The young people say they love coming to our church. HP said that Youth Liturgy is growing, with 8 or 9 attending recently. Livy ran it herself a few weeks ago, when no adults were available. PB suggested a Light party for Halloween and MT asked about prayer partners for FHC children.

CfoC (PT):

PT & Dick G attended a recent CFoC meeting,. Members of local churches gathered together at key venues overlooking Christchurch recently to bless the town and its people as a response to the Yuletide Festival organised by Christchurch BC.

PT highlighted Christian Unity Week in January and asked for suggestions as to how we might gather with fellow Christians to celebrate this. He suggested Cn Charles might be invited to preach at a Mass during the Octave.

IC has taken up the challenge of the 'warm spaces' initiative and a Becky's café planning group met on Sunday, with a start date of Thursday 1st December in the parish centre.

6. Identifying and supporting those in need

Faith Matters Group is the only forum where pastoral area churches meet together; the group wishes to reach out to people who feel rejected by the Church.

SVP is no more. The intention, pre-Covid, was to replace it with an informal parish-based group. The Becky's café initiative may help to open connections with people who would welcome SVP-type support. Bric-a-brac provides a venue for people to talk about all aspects of their lives, including their Faith.

7. AOB

i) Prayers of the Faithful: MT reminded the group that these are essentially invitations to prayer, with the prayer of the people taking place in the silence that follows each intention. The Church offers a basic framework which can be adapted in a personal way, adding references to the Scripture readings of the day. PT sent out the CBCEW guidelines some time ago.

ii) Public Liability Certificate is now out of date: PB will alert Wendy when she returns next week (ie w/c 5 Dec).

iii) Terms of Reference for the PC: MB would like some information about the role of the PC - to be addressed at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm with prayer & blessing from Fr A

Next meeting: TBC (post-meeting, Fr A offered: Wed 11 or 18 January 2023, both at 7pm)