

Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the Meeting held 25th May 2022, 7:00pm

Present: Philippa Smallwood (Chairperson); Fr. Albert Lawes (Acting-President); Fr. Anil Gundabatina; Rev. Delian Bower; Rev. Kelvin Russell; Federico Caprotti; Ken Cheek; Martin Overy; Monica Overy; Maria Quinn; Michael Quinn; Rosalba Villarreal; Eduardo Villarreal.

Opening Prayer: Fr. Anil.

1. Apologies: Rev. Kieran Kirby

2. Minutes of the meeting 1st December 2021 and matters arising

- Soft Toy Bags: Maria has spoken to Bridge Books and will liaise with Fr Kieran and Monica.
- Parish 3 minute Survey: This has been delayed by the pandemic but Philippa will action, with a presentation at Masses one weekend. Maria offered to help with this.
- Craft afternoons: due to the pandemic nothing had been done.
- Screens in Church: New Order of Service sheets and Large Print Hymn Books have been ordered; there has been a delay as both were out of print.
- Maria had been contacted by Ms. Dunbar (Greener Churches in Exeter) about having a parish contact/representative on this forum; this is an initiative to share ideas around climate change. There might be a link to the younger members of the parish community, possibly associated with Confirmation and/or GIFT. This could be mentioned in the Parish 3 minute Survey.

3. Review of Triduum/Easter Masses and liturgies

- The general feeling was positive, with good attendances at all Masses and Liturgies.
- Kelvin and Martin expressed some Health & Safety concerns about crossing South Street as part of the procession at the 9.15 Mass on Passion Sunday – alternatives might be examined for next year i.e. start up or down South St on the same side as the church.
- The length of the Vigil Mass was questioned (although this year's was the shortest allowed liturgically).
- The use of the Baptistery for the baptism was meaningful for the participants, although very crowded and not visible for the congregation. It was noted that

the value of having baptisms at the front of the church is that all the community are better placed to share in the sacrament.

4. Parish Ministries

- All Parish Ministries need more people!
- Rosalba asked whether members of the congregation could be invited onto the Sanctuary during Mass?
- Altar Servers – the 9.15 Mass has sufficient, although attendance is variable. The 5.30 Vigil Mass and the 11.15 Mass have few, or none. Young people can only be available to serve if their parents attend Mass – this could be addressed as part of the 3 minute Survey.
- The GIFT programme could be used to promote Ministries.
- Children's Liturgy (9.15 Mass) – could the children relate to the congregation what they have been learning when they return (this was done previously)?
- The Commissioning of Ministers needs to be undertaken regularly. This would highlight what is done in the parish and may encourage more interest in the different ministries.
- Fr. Albert informed the council that the Legion of Mary hoped to establish a group in the parish, to visit parishioners and possibly to undertake such duties previously carried out by the SVP.
- Philippa reported that Welcoming at Sunday Masses had been started at the 9.15 Mass; feedback had been positive and a couple of parishioners had offered to help; but more volunteers were needed, particularly at the 5.30 and 11.15 Masses in order to start Welcoming at those masses.

5. Synodal Journey – next steps

- The circulation of the Parish Feedback and Diocesan Final Report were noted. It was felt that it had been a positive process, in spite of the fact that the questions set were restrictive and that the process was very directive. Going forward some continuity would be important, providing the process could be tailored to parish needs and concerns. Fr Albert and Philippa will draw up questions to be addressed at a follow-on day.
- Benediction and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday evenings would be starting soon, plus an evening Mass on Thursdays.
- Greater involvement of the children and young adults of the parish would be a good thing, possibly tied in with the current Formation sessions.

6. Social Action – Waymakers update

- Two substantial donations had been received and the project was secure from a financial point of view.

- It was continuing to be difficult to secure adequate accommodation and the decision had been made to seek a rented property rather than purchase one. Liaison with the Diocese was ongoing.
- When the refugee family eventually arrive volunteers from the parish would be required to assist in a number of different roles.

7. Outreach

- The South Street Spring Event was a success, in spite of the weather; the parish were really generous in providing so many excellent cakes! A good number of passers-by came in for coffee and cakes and it might be a nice idea to repeat the event at some future date, possibly on a Saturday afternoon?
- It was proposed to hold a Christmas Party for the elderly in the parish in the Lower Room (date to be decided). Monica offered to be the PPC lead and to recruit a sub-committee to organise the event, with representatives from the 5.30 and 11.15 Masses.

8. Safeguarding

No issues.

9. Health and Safety

- The snagging process had been initiated with the architects and the builders and hopefully work would be under way shortly.
- The suggestion made at the last Council meeting (that the meeting point in the event of a fire should be outside the Baptist Church rather than on the opposite side of South Street) has been implemented; all the Fire Notices have been amended accordingly.
- Rosalba raised a problem with the temperature of the water from the boiler tap in the kitchen, and asked whether kettles could be provided instead? Martin said that, as far as he was aware, the boiler taps were functioning correctly and thence kettles shouldn't be necessary, but offered to attend as required when social functions were taking place to check that everything was working correctly. All kitchen users have undertaken an induction programme regarding the operation of the kitchen equipment; refresher sessions could be implemented if necessary.

10. Date for the next meeting: Wednesday 7th September 2022, at 7:00pm

Closing prayer: Fr. Albert.