

Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the Meeting held 1st December 2021,7:00pm

Present: Philippa Smallwood (Chairperson); Fr Kieran Kirby (President); Fr Albert Lawes; Martin Overy; Monica Overy; Federico Caprotti; Rev Kelvin Russell; Michael Quinn; Karmen Trice (Minutes)

Opening prayer: Fr. Kieran

1. **Apologies:** Rev Delian Bower, Ken Cheek, Maria Quinn, Rosalba Villarreal, Eduardo Villarreal

2. Minutes of meeting 28.09.2021 and matters arising

- **Parish 3 Minute Survey**

Delayed until after Christmas due to focus on Synodal Journey

- **Welcoming Parishioners**

Due to Covid-19 the training has been delayed and will follow the 3-minute survey announcement. Members of the PPC are encouraged to help with the training in the new year. Welcoming is a very important role and people need to feel confident and comfortable. Several members of the PPC agreed to be involved with the training and are keen to include young people in this training too.

- **Soft Toy bags**

Samples of books from the Bridge Books shop were shared. Although the books were good quality and appropriate, they are expensive. Ideas about how to raise funds for the books were shared. One idea was to make a 'wish list' which people could contribute too. Federico Caprotti is going to look at setting up an online 'wish list'. It was agreed that due to Covid -19 and hygiene, new items would be needed rather than old materials.

- **Craft Afternoons**

Due to Covid-19 the Craft Fayre is cancelled. The Arts group will be approached about starting a weekly Craft Afternoon in the New Year

- **Screens in Church**

Fr Kieran shared that API had visited the church and had been given a quote for two screens to be installed. The 2 screens are the biggest you can have and still be portable. It was felt that having two portable screens would not be enough to

allow everyone to use them and we do not have the room to store more than this. Due to the church's listed status we may not get permission to attach the screens to the pillars and it could possibly ruin the aesthetics of the church. It was suggested that we could do an audit to see how many people were struggling to use the books and supply large print copies. Federico shared that there is an app you can use to follow the service.

3. Covid Situation – Church attendance and Masses

- Martin shared that the attendance numbers have stabilised at an average of 300 people on a Sunday. Seats are becoming a little tight on the weekends but due to Covid-19 no other seats can be opened at this present time. Although we do not legally have to limit the seats, it is felt that it is our Christian duty to look after each other. The Stewards were recognised by all as doing a fantastic job.
- Martin shared that numbers are down from pre-pandemic times, but not a huge amount. People are coming more regularly to mid-week mass rather than on a Sunday when it is busier.
- Obligation to attend Mass is not in force however it is encouraged at this time, however with the ever-changing circumstances due to the new covid variant this may change. Bishop Mark has sent a letter today to say that masks are now mandatory.
- Christmas Masses

24.12.21 5.30pm and then Midnight Mass at 11.30pm

25.12.21 9.15am and 11.15am

A booking system will be in place. This year we can book up to 100 people per service. Martin Overy will endeavour to have 3 stewards per service.

4. Synodal Journey Update

So far, we have had 2 Zoom sessions and a full day on Saturday. The response has been very positive, and people are getting use to what they need to do, and the questions are proving to be fruitful. The information shared will be collated and published.

5. Social Action – WAYmakers Update

So far £947 has been raised from coffee money and progress has been made on the housing situation. A full report about this will be made when more details are known.

6. Divine Renovation

We need to identify people who will read the book as it will follow on nicely from the Synodal Journey.

7. Outreach

A discussion was had about outreach we could consider doing in the future when we can;

-Mission Made Possible Course

-Free bacon sandwiches for members of the public. Due to covid this may not be able to be done inside but perhaps we could use the space between the doors in the hallway as it is closer to the church and the street. Flasks could be used for hot drinks.

-Working with the Homeless. There are several parishioners who would like to work with the homeless. It is thought that perhaps we could perhaps work with the Cathedral Cabin on the Cathedral Green. It would be good to work jointly with them.

-During the Pandemic, isolating parishioners were supported with phone calls, shopping deliveries, check ups etc. SVP would like to continue this work. The PPC agreed that this good work should continue as there are still people who do not see or talk to anyone now they are not attending services in person. As SVP is a 3rd party, we need to get permission from people who would like to benefit from this ministry. All members of the SVP will need to DBS as they will eventually be visiting people, however due to the pandemic, currently only phone calls will be done. SVP will also establish if people need communion or the sacraments.

8. Health and safety

Builder are coming for snagging. We have not done a fire evacuation so after Christmas we need to start them. These will be done after Mass, so people know what is going on and not cause a panic. This will help make sure that people know what to do and ensure the Fire Marshals procedures work smoothly. The Stewards are being approached to ask if they would do the Fire Marshal training too, this may also eventually roll into the Welcomers training.

9. Speeding up communion Rev K Russell

It was discussed that having two stations for giving communion would speed the process up a bit. After some discussion it was felt that the two stations could cause confusion and encourage people to start conversations. There is also a lack of Stewards at present, therefore the time gained may be limited. It was felt that the extra time needed to issue communion allows people some time for reflection.

10. Next meeting and Training

The next meeting will be at 7.00pm on a date to be confirmed shortly.

Training/Retreat – Fr Kieran to look at dates.

Fr Albert said a Closing Prayer

The meeting ended at 8.00pm