

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Thursday 7th April 2022

Present

Fr. Peter Mansfield, Gerry O'Donnell, Brenda Eydman, Colin Wilding, Peter McFall, Erica Thurbon, Bridget Hanlon, Peter Chamberlain (part), Richard Thurbon.

Minutes

Brenda Eydman

Agenda.

Welcome given by Gerry, with special welcome to Peter and Richard.

Opening prayer by Colin

Apologies for Absence

Sue Carr , Penne Hutton, Bernadette Hallett, Elsie Ofili, Pauline D'Mello-Maplesden

Minutes of last meeting. There were no matters arising .

The Synodal Process in the Archdiocese of Southwark.

Peter Chamberlain gave feedback on the process and timelines for submitting our Parish document and the consequent draft Diocesan document.

The general feeling was that it was a well written document with language and tone which were sympathetic. It was considered an easy read but rather long. It was felt that it was largely doctrinal and that issues like Women priests and divorcees were not given enough weight, although there is an attempt to be inclusive. More emphasis could be given to the feelings and practicalities of everyday life.

There was an in depth discussion on ways of taking the process forward in our parish.

There were a number of groups, such as families with young children and the youth of the parish, who were under-represented.

How do we reach them in the future?

Better communication through the new notice boards and encouraging volunteers to work

in small groups, were ways suggested, along with a Parish day and reaching parishioners in social settings.

Erica volunteered to take this on board, and will start by arranging a Parish day, possibly with a picnic in the school grounds in early July before the schools break up for the summer.

There is a need to celebrate being a Parish, following the impact of Covid on everyone.

Review of current arrangements for Mass.

It was agreed to continue asking people to wear masks. Welcome ministers are not required to challenge those not wearing one, but masks will be available in the porch if required by anyone who may have just forgotten.

The doors at the back of the church are still to remain open for ventilation.

Singing will still be on a separate lectern from the readers.

These arrangements will be reviewed again at the next PPC.

Peter Mc Fall reported that some parishioners were unhappy with the current arrangements for the offertory baskets being passed around from the back of the church. Brenda also reported that people preferred the second collection to be placed in baskets at the back of the church on their way out.

Fr Peter is happy with the current arrangements which are quicker, and prevent people bunching together at the back of the church.

Fr Peter is willing to continue to live stream the masses for the housebound and elderly until September.

Bar and Social Club.

At present there is no Social Club Committee. Events, such as the St. Patrick Day celebration have been organised on an ad hoc basis by volunteers.

Fr Peter will prepare a notice for the newsletter, thanking those who have served in the past, and asking others to come forward and speak to Fr Peter if they are willing to serve on a new committee. This would initially be for one year.

Gerry expressed concern about the terms and conditions of the bar license and asked if it is available.

Brenda and Bridget confirmed the need for club membership, and the signing in of visitors at events. This has begun but needs to be formalised. Gerry has asked if anyone has any documentation regarding these matters, and if so, to give them to him to read and take matters forward.

Review of keeping the parish connected.

Brenda to liaise with Fr Peter and Leonie to prepare an updated list of the vulnerable and housebound, and who is their parish contact.

Brenda will send out Easter cards and asked for details of any new additions.

Date of the next meeting

Monday 13th June at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.