**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting** **Monday 13 June 2022**

**Present:**

Fr Peter Mansfield (PM), Gerry O’Donnell (GO), Sue Carr (SC), Bridget Hanlon (BH), Erica Thurbon (ET), Penne Hutton (PH), Pauline D’Mello-Maplesden (PD)

**Agenda**:

1. **Welcome** from Gerry and the opening prayer said by Sue Carr.
2. **Apologies for Absence**

Elsie Ofili, Brenda Eydman, Colin Wilding, Bernadette Hallet, Peter McFall

1. **Minutes of last meeting, and matter arising**

No matters arising. Minutes agreed.

1. **Review of current arrangements for Mass**

* **Mask wearing:**

(PM) In recent weeks more people are coming to mass without masks.

(PM) Hard to enforce what there isn’t a consensus about.

(PH) Masks not worn elsewhere. Let’s keep the church ventilated. High levels of attendees not wearing masks.

(GO) Has been petitioned by parishioners to stop wearing masks. One parishioner attending Mass elsewhere because of policy.

(SC) Spoke about vulnerable parishioners.

Conclusion – We will lift the request for mask wearing and leave it optional. We will continue with good ventilation. .

**ACTION** – GO and PM to agree updated wording for ‘current arrangements for mass comms’

* **PH raised the process of the second collection:**

We discussed about having it as people exit rather than passing it around. PM spoke about the Diocesan responsibility of the Catholic community. Concerns about parishioners bypassing the collection if on exit. Not in favour of it being placed at the exit. The majority were in agreement.

Conclusion: Process to remain the same.

* GO advised that the Finance committee were looking at contactless/card payment.

1. **The Synodal Process in the Archdiocese of Southwark**

Gerry and Fr Peter asked the group to discuss the following points taken from the feedback received from the Synod process – comments from the meeting annotated under each theme.

*"Over the course of our meetings, the realisation grew that the local listening phase of the Synod was not just a reporting exercise but an opportunity to act on the outcomes of our reflections, turning our deliberations into positive action."*

**Welcoming**

*We need to find better ways of welcoming and supporting people who might feel themselves to been the periphery – remarried divorcees, those in same sex relationships etc. Re-remarried and divorcees, (also people cohabiting, etc.)*

*We need to be Christ-like in our welcome. We need to welcome people unconditionally.*

All - We can be more welcoming. Front load our messaging to ‘we welcome everyone’

**Laity and Faith**

*Provide adults with more opportunity to grow in their understanding of the Faith.*

*the laity needs to become more educated about its faith if it is to take on more responsibilities within the liturgical and pastoral life of the Church.*

*Prioritise our attention on those groups that may be on the margins of parish life: the elderly, the vulnerable, young families, young people.*

**Youth**

*Better engage young people in the life of the Church learn from other churches, for example in how they get engagement from their community,*

*particularly young people.*

PH is looking to reach out to previous volunteers. Possible recruitment drive for more helpers. She suggested a youth mass in September. She will look to ask the young people to get involved. We also discussed having a youth committee.

PM said that it was important to note that there has been a group looking at this work. The Parish should not assume that we are not doing things.

ET suggested a youth ministry advocated by the Baptist church.

PH noted that young people have a sophisticated social life.

**ACTION**

PH and PD – to come back with a proposal on how to take this continued work forward.

***Elderly***

*The contribution of elderly people in the parish needs to be recognised.*

***Young Families***

*we need to find new ways of reaching out and persuading parents with young children to give a small slice of their time.*

***Vulnerable***

*We must not overlook those within the parish who are in need but not visibly so.*

ET suggested physically signposting via the noticeboards.

Perhaps have a contact box?

GO – Let’s resurrect what we did before by getting ownership from PC members for each of the themes? There are seven issues – there are 12 PC members. Do we distribute these to PC members? Do we prioritise certain themes? We need to look at our lessons learned. Share our plans. Six-point template (used before)

**ACTION -** GO will start a matching process (as described above)

Linked to these themes PM spoke to the PC about **two letters from the Archdiocese** (links/letter attached to the minutes).The first letter is directed to those who are attending mass, the second to those who are not, encouraging them to return.

**ACTION**

PM suggested approaching the school and putting letters in school bags at St Aidan’s school. We will look to post links and letters on our social media accounts. We can also have them at the back of church.

1. **Bar and Social Club**

PM gave an update - we have made good progress in appointing a bar manager (Laura Lakes) and Don is staying on the rota to advise. We need two or three more volunteers. The Social Club are looking to have a BBQ in the summer. It will be a ticketed event. We discussed how to make it more inclusive.

GO, PM and Peter McFall have researched the bar licensing situation.

It was suggested that we use social media to increase social club membership?

1. **Communication to the Parish**

GO spoke about the newsletter and how it is uploaded. We need to look at a more robust process to send out the newsletter when GO or CW are on leave. Can we refresh the IT group or ask for volunteers?

1. **AOB**

* Suggestion - Have a young family day?
* The state of the bells was raised – PM is looking to have them mended

1. **Date of next meeting** Thursday 15th September (opening prayer – Pauline)