**OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

**HARPENDEN**

**MEETING OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

**MONDAY 10th JUNE 2024**

**7.30pm**

**UNDERCROFT**

**MINUTES**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Welcome & Apologies – Sarah, Dennis, Liz.
3. Minutes of last meeting – thanks to Fernanda for compiling these. Correction – Michelle Lynch is not involved in the 9.45 project.
   Katie offered to do a talk in September (talks introducing parish groups.)
4. Matters Arising – None.
5. 9.45 Mass *Update* –
   Children's Project now running for 4 weeks. Purpose – get more people involved with tasks (online sign up.) Latest week – no volunteers.
   Need to keep other groups 'in the loop.'
   Need Welcomers at the 9.45 (no rota.) Lucy will ask at Mass after a training date has been arranged. Have had new volunteers. Thanks to Lucy for all her work on this.
6. Parish Survey *Going Forward* – (Ideas and proposals)
   Positive feeling that things were moving forward.
   People have been helped with queries about their faith.
   Communication about groups in the parish – what is available (2 minute presentations starting in the autumn.)
   All survey results have been considered.
   Need for an additional multi-purpose table (e.g., for prayer intentions) on opposite side of aisle from the Offertory Gifts (Canon to purchase.)
   Tea and Coffee after Mass – 9.45 the best time.
   Parish Celebration – more regular (3 or 4 times a year.)
   Comms team to actively promote resources on the website.
   Event for family members of parishioners who are not Catholic (information giving evening.)
   Evening for Catholics who no longer come to church (also use of Alpha course.)
   Talk on church building (parishioner identified who can do this (Linda Collins.)) Could record and put on website. Need for booklet at back of church explaining what is in the church (one on stained glass has been produced.)
   Prayer and Bible Study groups wanted (one evening a month or week in the church looking at different prayers.)
   Questionnaires given out at start of Mass, return at end (tea and coffee, and prayer and Bible study.)
   Children and Young People's Co-ordination Group (meet once or twice a year with reps from all the relevant groups) – need someone to set up and chair.
   Increase involvement of FHC parents (need for culture change – some parents regard the FHC process as a burden.)
   Quiz for parents of FHC candidates, and other events to build a sense of community. Need to reconnect with young people between FHC and Confirmation, and afterwards.
   Desire for Pet Blessing Ceremony.
   Need for parish calendar.
   LGBT people not feeling welcome in the Catholic Church – need for celebration event.
   Opportunity needed for parish to grieve about and have acknowledgement of the child abuse scandal. Healing event.
   Put these last two items on next agenda.

7. PPC Links with Parish Groups –

Each member to have a link with different parish groups. There are 31 groups.

Katie – Saturday, 9.45 and 11.30 music groups, Altar Servers, Operations (LiveStreaming.)

Lucy – Comms., 9.45 Children's Project.

Jon – LiveSimply groups (Environment), SVP.

Fernanda – DWG.

Canon – Eucharistic Ministers, Finance and Premises.

Mark – LiveSimply groups (Liturgy), Newman Association, Wednesday Walks.

Dennis – Catenians, Welcomers, Good Neighbours.

Jane – Flowers, Repository, Life Ascending.

Eddie – Ministers of the Word.

Caroline – First Communion, Confirmation, Baptism, Catechetics, Oasis.

Sarah – Youth.

Dom – Youth.

Make contact with the group and ask what we can do to help.

8. Premises -

*Lourdes Hall* – facilities and building need improvement. Other groups in the parish need consulting. PPC members to feed suggestions to Canon or Finance Committee.

Need to decide what buildings and facilities we actually need.

*Undercroft Steps* – Steps need replacing. Work should happen in August.

9. Any other business –

Handrail up to Sanctuary: a problem for a number of parishioners. An architect has been spoken to. Those concerned need to make their feelings known to Canon, as the problem is more widespread than the one person who has spoken to him so far.

Need for bigger trolley for Mass books and Hymn books.

Alpha Group item for next meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday July 2nd at 7.30 p.m.

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Welcome and Apologies.
3. LGBT issues.
4. Healing Event.
5. Alpha Group.
6. Date of Next Meeting.