OUR LADY OF LOURDES

HARPENDEN

MEETING OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MONDAY 13th November 2023

7.30pm

UNDERCROFT

MINUTES

- Opening Prayer – led by Canon.

1. Welcome & Apologies – no apologies.
2. Presentation by MDT members:
    - Change of culture in the parish – Divine Renovation – OLOL Parish Renewal - creation of MDT.
    - Parish of missionary disciples – development of vision – parish survey.
    - Parish goals – Comms Team and PPC – Synodal Pathway – groups working on various aspects.
    - Several achievements – PPC / MDT / Comms
    - Parish involvement in a variety of areas
    - Things to work on: formal role for MDT – not needed? Unintentionally set PPC off on a single issue. Working in silos. Efforts to have joint meetings not working.
    - PPC leadership team for overall planning and strategy.
    - Realignment – PPC aware of everything going on in parish – interact with other groups. Comms Group liaising with all groups. MDT stepping back.
    - Smaller groups within the PPC to oversee different areas of parish life? Have a PPC Comms lead?
    - Discussion following presentation: need to have people on PPC responsible for specific areas. All parish volunteers should feel part of the same mission. Comms team will organise 'In the Spotlight' – monthly interviews to publicise roles in the parish. Online storage for all documents seen as a good idea. Need for 'resurrection' of overarching catechesis group.
    - Travelling Crib – start of Advent. Create mini crib – pass from family to family around the parish – way of getting parishioners to potentially meet new people. ACTION: Tell Anne M if interested. Launch at Advent Service? Two or three cribs to circulate – not just for our church?
    - Slides for presentation on website.
3. Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising
    - Schools' liaison: ACTION – Katie has all school email addresses and will share Comms Team info with schools.
4. Taking forward suggestions from Parish Survey
    - Need to be organised so that small groups work on different areas.
    - Welcomers' situation has improved but there is a need for some 'training' in the role. ACTION: Dennis will draft a guide to the role.
    - The importance of people connecting with one another before Mass was emphasised – a time to talk and a time to prepare oneself for the Mass. A specific invitation to engage with neighbours in the pews was very successful before the Youth Friendly Mass on November 11th.
    - ACTION: Fernanda will circulate her categorisation of items from the PS to PCC members for them to consider. First item on the agenda for the next meeting. Canon will send the PS to Jon.
    - ACTION: Canon will remind parishioners of PS via the newsletter and what is being done to implement it.
5. Mass Attendance figures
    - Pre-pandemic 700; September/October 2023: 400-500. St Nicholas down 40%. Difficulty of dealing with the social and psychological impact of the pandemic. Questions about e.g., meaning of Mass attendance could be circulated by the Comms Team. Also, role of Good Neighbours team – contacting parishioners.
6. Sacramental Preparation

- *First Communion*: Up and running.
- *Confirmation*: Up and running.

8. Christmas/New Year
    - Canon's plan: Christmas Eve: Saturday 6.00 pm / Sunday 9.00 and 11.00 am. 'Midnight' Mass at 10.00 pm. Christmas Day normal Mass times. Christmas Mass times leaflet will be passed to Good Neighbours team.
9. Suggestions from PPC email
    - Mostly circulars at present. Jon will send the details of the PPC email to Canon.
10. Any other business
    - Advent Service at OLOL on December 3rd. Ecumenical service.
    - Jon has a number of items which he will ask Canon to put on the next agenda.
    - Parish Survey video and other details on website.
    - Young person rep on PPC – invited to bring ideas on a particular topic? Have own PPC with 1-2 adult members? Gather ideas at Youth Group meetings for PPC?
    - Pictures of those who have died to encourage attendance at funerals will be reintroduced when possible.
    - Progress on Youth Minister idea? Canon wants to see how the existing initiatives develop.
    - Confirmation Group help at bazaar (hot dogs) – ACTION: Dom will speak to Pauline and Anne.
    - ACTION: Canon will send Comms Team email address to Jon.
11. Date of next meeting
    - Monday January 22nd at 7.30 p.m.