OUR LADY OF LOURDES

HARPENDEN

MEETING OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MONDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2024

7.30pm

In the Undercroft

MINUTES

1. Opening Prayer – said by Canon.
2. Welcome & Apologies – Fernanda, Katie.
3. Minutes of last meeting – Mark contacted the parish groups he had been allocated and received a response. Minutes accepted.
4. Matters Arising – See above.
5. Evangelisation
   - *Video* – primacy of evangelisation (Divine Renovation.)
   - *What should we be doing?* Missionary discipleship. Importance of welcoming and warmth of relationships between parishioners. We need to link everything that we do to the idea of missionary discipleship. Evangelisation should precede Catechesis. Need to overcome lack of confidence (due to lack of knowledge.)
   - *Alpha* – how to get people to come? St Albans celebration of Light (example of indirect evangelisation.) Previous Alpha in parish – 80% approval. Attracted a number of non-parishioners. Use Alpha to help change culture of the parish. Proposal for a Get Together Evening for non-Catholic friends / relatives of parishioners to inform them about the Faith before starting the course. Needs a team of people to set up and run the course. Canon will speak to Fernanda. Need for a specific Evangelisation Director in the parish to drive the whole process forward. Alpha planned to start in 2025.
6. Mass Count – average for 4 Sundays: Numbers down from 2019 (pre-pandemic), especially at 8.30 and 9.45. A request was made for Canon to enquire whether the picture was similar in other parishes. Christ Church have a successful mission and evangelisation model, which is not necessarily replicable in the Catholic Church. The Mass figures will be put in the newsletter by Canon.
7. Comms Team update (*see attached)* – want feedback on the electronic noticeboard. Views were varied; needs to be looked at in the context of the other noticeboards. Put notices on the screens before Mass? Put screen outside? Website getting good traffic. Lucy will feed back to the Comms team.
8. First Terms of Office – first 8 people to come onto the PPC – term expires in February 2025. Canon would like them to continue if they wish to. The general opinion was that vacancies should still be advertised. Mark and Jon said that they would resign in February. We will wait until the next meeting to allow existing members whose terms are coming to an end to make a decision about what they want to do (first item on next agenda.)
9. Links with Parish Groups – Katie doing a great job with other churches.
10. Any other business -
    - *First Aid* – need a signal from the welcomer(s) to alert the priest to the fact that someone needs urgent medical attention (standing in the aisle with arm raised and hand towards the altar.) This was agreed. Do evacuation procedures need to be better known? Welcomers will be informed of the whereabouts of water. H and S check is done every year.
    - *Parish Advent Calendar* – the general opinion was that it should be kept (Jane will tell Cathy.) Cathy would like someone else to take on her role with this. Thanks were expressed to all those who assist with the calendar.

- *Chairs in Undercroft* – some will be left at the side rather than put away. A notice will be put up to say that this will be the new method of dealing with chairs.
- *Camera in Undercroft for use during services* – Canon will speak to Peter.
- *Launchpoint (Divine Renovation)* – Canon, Lucy, Dennis and Dom have watched this presentation and will take any actions forward.

11. Date of Next Meeting – Monday January 20th at 7.30 p.m. Agenda items: Evangelisation second video, first terms of office and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.