OUR LADY OF LOURDES

HARPENDEN

MEETING OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MONDAY 18th September 2023

7.30pm

UNDERCROFT

MINUTES

PRESENT: Canon, Eddie (chair), Jon, Dom, Fernanda, Sarah, Katie, Lucy, Mark, Jane, Caroline.

APOLOGIES: Liz (ill), Tony (resigned.)

- Opening Prayer – said by Canon.

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting & notes from meeting on July 17th – accepted.
3. Matters Arising –
    - Lucy – contacts sent to PPC members from summer conference – priests from Northampton Diocese. MDT advised caution regarding the potential appointment of a Youth and Family Worker and that strong evidence of likely success is needed.
    - Mark – Visited Christchurch. Have large staff team (7/8 paid.) 350-400 worshippers in Harpenden. Have expanded to Luton. Also in Redbourn. Funded by donations.
    - Jon – will follow up contact at High St Methodist. £37,000 p/a for recently appointed Youth Worker.
    - Eddie – spoke to Fr Mark Walker. 200 parishioners. Only one admin assistant.
    - Canon – wishes to further reflect on the feedback from the various local churches before making a decision about the FYW.
4. Introductions – the new members of the PPC introduced themselves: Jane, Caroline, Dom and Katie.
5. Re-cap purpose of PPC –
    - Advisory role – Canon.
    - Listening role – Parishioners.
    - Bringing the parish from maintenance to mission.
    - Taking forward Parish Survey suggestions.
    - Working with parents and families.
    - Opening a welcoming door for everyone.
6. Taking Forward suggestions from Parish Survey –
    - For next agenda.
7. Children's Involvement in Family Mass – Leaflet
    - Lucy – need team of people at 9.45 Mass to take suggestions forward. Canon will identify those who could assist (he will speak to Marianne who organises the Welcomers at the 9.45 Mass.)
8. 'Youth friendly Masses' & Youth activities
    - Anne and Pauline have contributed a huge amount of work to this.
    - Schedule now available for Youth Friendly Masses.
    - Timetable completed to start Youth Group sessions (after Youth Friendly Mass) including Youth Alpha.

- Volunteers have come forward.
- Giving young people agency to talk about their faith with their peers.
- Need more adult volunteers and spread the word to young people (announcements at end of Mass by young people.)
- Once a month commitment.
- Invite non-Catholics.

9. Sacramental Preparation
   - *First Communion*: c 45 candidates. Parents had to make appointment with Canon first.
   - *Confirmation*: 12-13 registered so far. Probably c 20 this year.

10. Suggestions from PPC email – relevant material circulated by Jon.

11. Any other business –
    - MDT will come to first part of next meeting.
    - Event during Parish Bazaar involving wider Parish – ideas can be emailed to Jon.
    - School contacts – message needs to go in newsletter asking for volunteer parents to forward emails within their children's school.
    - Thanks were expressed to Tony for all the sterling work he had done for the PPC during his time on the Committee.

12. Date and time of next meeting –
    - Monday 13th November at 7.30 in the Undercroft.