

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

**HARPENDEN**

**MEETING OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> July**

**7.30pm**

**UNDERCROFT**

**MINUTES**

- Opening Prayer (said by Canon Anthony)
  - PRESENT: Canon Anthony, Eddie, Tony, Lucy, Jon, Mark.
1. Welcome & Apologies – Fernanda, Liz, Sarah.
  2. Minutes of last meeting – Accepted as a true and fair record.
  3. Matters Arising – PPC email address has been set up – to be shared with PPC and parish.
    - Diocesan surveyor coming to see what work can be done on the Undercroft steps (28<sup>th</sup> July.)
  4. Parish Website – Comments included - very good, very welcoming; clear directions for where to search for items; front page especially good. The website is a work in progress. Comms Team will keep it updated.
    - We have had a large poster made (designed by Rachel Lee) to go at the front of the church (with QR code.) This will cover one board and another will be constructed.
    - There will be a recurring agenda item to discuss comments from parishioners to the PPC (via email or otherwise.)
    - A paragraph will be put in the newsletter about the work of the PPC, encouraging parishioners to contact us.
  5. Family & Young People Project – Comms Team supportive.
    - The fact this is part of a plan linked to the Synodal Pathway/Parish Survey has been emphasised.
    - Volunteers will be sought, to start in September.
    - Awareness raising will take place over the next few weeks, to encourage people to volunteer.
    - Tony has been in touch with Jay and they are hoping to meet in August.
    - Fernanda and Tony will confer with Canon about exactly when the project will start (probably mid-September.)
  6. Follow up to Synodal Pathway & Parish Survey – No further developments.
  7. Sacramental Preparation – First Communions (50+) and Confirmation (40+) finished in June.
    - How many will return regularly? No great change at the moment in this regard.
    - Canon is trying to encourage familiarity with the Mass (a way of life not a one-off event!)
    - There are no clear solutions to this dropping off of attendance at Mass.
    - Suggestions:
      - follow the Divine Renovation scheme for First Communion;
      - give the young people a role in the Mass;
      - make the Mass more accessible to young people;
      - help understanding of the Mass;
      - more modern music at one Mass;
      - a small ‘win’ such as some kind of get together after Mass (‘squash and biscuits’ and something fun);
      - extend period before first Holy Communion;
      - register of children who wish to read, do offertory etc.;
      - pay children to be in the choir;
      - peer pressure (need people to relate to);
      - awards/rewards for regular readers etc.;

- family element at every Mass;
- item in newsletter to advertise for more participants in the Saturday PM Music Group.

- Eddie is happy to work with and train potential readers.

- The issue of sport on Sunday mornings was raised and how to accommodate this potential conflict.

- Young families are the big gap in terms of non-returners to Mass.

- Mass attendance at present c.400. No more than 100 at any Mass.

8. Any other Business – Canon wishes to set up a Formation team for adults.

- Canon wishes to hand over the Chair of the PPC.

9. Date of next meeting – Monday September 12<sup>th</sup>. 7.30 p.m in the Undercroft.