

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

**HARPENDEN**

**MEETING OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

**7.30pm**

**UNDERCROFT**

**MINUTES**

- Opening Prayer
- 1. Welcome & Apologies – Fernanda, Sarah.
- 2. Minutes of last meeting –
  - Accepted.
- 3. Matters Arising
  - Employment of Pastoral Assistant – to keep on agenda. Canon would need a clearly defined role for the PA. He/she could offer support for Canon and the PPC. Canon thanked the Committee for their recent work on the Pizza and Pop evening.
- 4. Family & Young People Project
  - *Reflections on 'Pizza & Pop'*
  - 40-50 attended (including several children.) A successful and productive evening – lots of ideas were generated.
  - *Suggestions Received*
  - Most forms returned were from families of Primary School age children. 10/12 said they were happy to be further involved. Most suggestions were things that we can take forward reasonably easily. Same sort of feedback as for the parish survey.
  - Key themes: engagement during Mass; Mass times / First HC and Sunday sport; support for families; fun activities; education – helping parents to educate children. The difficulty of balancing different commitments was acknowledged.
  - *Next Steps*
  - Lucy will speak to Anne Pesez about a Movie Night or Pizza in the Parish for teenagers in the New Year. It was suggested that the Confirmation Class be approached to see what they would like (they could be involved in running the evening.)
  - Canon and Lucy have discussed possible helpers at the 9.45 Mass. Lucy will put together a summary of the discussion. A rota for different jobs at the 9.45 would be drawn up.
  - A children's version of the Gospel would be read at the 9.45 Mass.
  - The 'Crying Room' would be renamed in (e.g.) the Newsletter. Parents would be encouraged to bring in toys, games and books to 're-stock' the room. A message would be put in the Newsletter to this effect.
  - Canon would deliver more child-friendly homilies as at the First Communion.
  - Canon would explain what is going on at the 9.45 Mass (a different aspect each week.)
  - Children's activities handed out at the start of Mass – it was agreed to continue with these. A request had been made that the first HC children should not receive them, to enable them to concentrate on the Mass. Tony would contact Melanie regarding the activity sheets.
  - Responding to parents who had offered help at the P and P evening – Tony would contact the Primary School children's parents; Mark the older children's parents. Jon would send the PPC email details to the other members of the PPC so that they could send emails.

- Prayer Book for people to write prayers in and take up to the altar. Longer term – set up an Intercession Group in the parish. Lucy would buy an appropriate book.
5. Energy Crisis
    - Warm Spaces – offer a simple lunch; different churches would do different days. Canon would follow this up with the other churches. It was agreed that we should offer help. A team to take the lead would be organised (Canon would speak to the SVP.)
  6. Christmas Outreach
    - Encourage parishioners to encourage others to come to church at Christmas. The card of services could be distributed.
    - Christmas Day Family Mass – suggestions: encourage children to dress up as angels, shepherds etc.; giving out chocolate coins at the end of Mass. Tony would write to P and P evening attendees to suggest that they might like to participate.
  7. Suggestions from PPC email
    - The suggestions need to be properly collated, but they were similar in general to those collected on the P and P evening. Information was available for possible church tours. Thanks were expressed to Canon and Jon for their work on the email account.
    - Mother and Toddler Group – could assist with community engagement if it was linked to the parish.
    - Catechist – It was suggested that very few had signed up for classes. There was a desire to take the idea forward as it was a suggested outcome from the Growing in Faith exercise. Could be linked to Pastoral Assistant role. Canon was asked to consider how this might be taken forward. Tony would approach Jay Andolini for information and advice. The Catechist issue would be an item on the next agenda.
    - First Holy Communion – the possibility of some online lessons was raised, which would get families directly involved.
  8. Any other business – adding minutes to the website. Jon would send them directly to the Comms Group once they had been agreed. Canon would deal with the bills from the P and P evening.
  9. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 7.45 p.m.