

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

HARPENDEN

MEETING OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MONDAY 10th OCTOBER

7.30pm

UNDERCROFT

MINUTES

Opening Prayer.

1. Welcome & Apologies – none.
2. Minutes of last meeting – accepted.
3. Matters Arising – none.
4. Family & Young People Project –
 - We don't want to cut across what is happening already at Mass – the idea is to enhance, not replace, with an emphasis on families.
 - Start implementing ideas at one Mass (9.45 initially.) The idea is to have small jobs for children and young people to do and Mass-related activities for them to take part in. Have sign-up list (rotas for children and adults) and 2-3 volunteers to organise the Mass as used to happen. Canon will talk to Lucy about the practicalities.
 - Need key point of contact for each area (reading, collections etc.) Some of these exist already.
 - Presentation at Mass will ask for volunteers who will then implement ideas. The presentation will make clear that this is a response to the parish survey and Synodal Pathway feedback. Anyone with ideas can speak to a member of the PPC at the end of Mass. The presentation will invite people to an informal discussion evening in Undercroft on Tuesday November 8th @ 7.30 p.m. (Family Pizza Evening working title.) Key points from the survey and presentation will be displayed. There will be 'Corners' for discussion with different groups. Canon will put a notice in newsletter (Canon) about what we're proposing.
5. Post Covid – many young families and older people are missing from Mass. Very small numbers are now watching livestream. Various ideas were canvassed as to why numbers had declined, some out of our control.
6. Parish Statistics – there was a discussion about the decline in Mass numbers (which predated Covid) and the possible reasons behind it. Many growing churches are able to have a more flexible approach to worship. If numbers decline further, the number of Masses may have to change.
7. Suggestions for future agendas – parish sports day, rebuilding community. Ideas are to be sent to the Secretary.
8. Any other Business – The possibility of employing a Pastoral Assistant was mentioned. A job specification could be drawn up once it was established what the needs of the parish were.
9. Date of next Meeting – 15th November 2022 @ 7.30 p.m.