Living in Faith Programme – Notes from Planning Meeting 18 September 2025

The purpose of the meeting was to explore what people wished to get out of participating in the programme and to agree when, how often and for how long the group would meet. Some views were also expressed on the possible format of meetings.

Fourteen people (plus Fr Joseph and John F) attended the meeting.

Timing

It was agreed that the group would meet on a Monday night from 19:30 – 21:00 hours. The first full meeting would take place on Monday 20 October with three meetings to be held in quick succession (20 October, 3 November and 17 November) to build up momentum before the season of Advent.

Objectives - What people want to get out of participation in the programme

The following feedback on objectives was collected at the meeting in response to the question 'What would you like to get out of participating in the programme?':

- Deeper scriptural understanding
- A deeper knowledge and understanding of the Mass – why does it contain the words that it does – and doctrinal development
- How to live faith and put it into action
- An understanding of the lives of the Saints and what they and their lives can teach us
- A greater confidence in our own faith partly through learning how our 'notion' of faith compares with that of other people
- To learn from other people's faith experiences
- How can I do and be better (the beatitudes)?
- Deeper understanding of Christian values and virtues
- Understanding faith and belief – how they are similar and how they differ
- Exploration of doubts, fear of 'what comes next'

Objectives structured into three different categories: doctrinal, scriptural and personal:

Doctrinal

- A deeper knowledge and understanding of the Mass – why does it contain the words that it does – and doctrinal development
- An understanding of the lives of the Saints and what they and their lives can teach us

Scriptural

- Deeper scriptural understanding

Personal

- Understanding faith and belief – how they are similar and how they differ
- Exploration of doubts, fear of 'what comes next'
- How to live faith and put it into action
    - Deeper understanding of Christian values and virtues
- A greater confidence in our own faith partly through learning how our 'notion' of faith compares with that of other people
    - To learn from other people's faith experiences

Format of Meetings

It was noted that:

- overall group size has to be taken into account when deciding the format of meetings so that the objective of everyone participating to the fullest extent that they wish is achieved
- meetings could be framed, and these topics could be explored, within the overall framework of the Church's year (e.g. Mary as an example of Faith during the season of Advent)
- use could be made of formal materials sourced externally and viewed jointly followed by discussion in smaller groups
- there would need to be rules
- discussions would have to be moderated by Fr Joseph

When asked how best to involve more people in the programme, it was suggested that members of the group should extend personal invitations to those whom they thought might wish to take part.

19 September 2025