

## Synopsis of the Parish Pastoral Committee Meeting – September 2019

Fr Peter warmly welcomed Jim Conway from Holy Cross, Much Hadham and Alan Hodgson from Most Holy Redeemer in Sawbridgeworth.

MR recorded **thanks to all those responsible for** the memorable and enjoyable celebrations that marked **Fr Peter's Silver Jubilee** on 16.6.19. The event successfully united people from across the Parish in worship and thanksgiving.

To assist those who have difficulty accessing the altar to say Mass, read or act as Eucharistic Ministers it was agreed options for effective, unobtrusive handrails would be explored

The finances of all 3 churches across the Parish have been combined for some time. Although currently running at a calculated deficit this reflects the forecast resulting from the £20k per annum increase in the diocesan assessment.

It is planned that the oil fired boiler at St Joseph's will be replaced with gas and underfloor heating installed as has been very successfully completed in 3 parishes across the diocese already. This should reduce running costs significantly in the long-term.

The **Parish AGM will be held on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> November in the WCC after the 6pm Mass** and will be flagged in the newsletter to give ample notice.

St Andrew's (MH) will be 800 years old next year and consideration should be given as to how Holy Cross may best mark this event appropriately.

Fr Peter noted that **Christmas mass times across the Parish this year will be the same** as in the previous year.

The WCC continues to provide a venue for catechetical preparation and parish groups but **all hirers/users need to leave the premises clean and tidy so as not to inconvenience other hirers or require inappropriate levels of cleaning. Consistent contraventions may result in provision being withdrawn.**

The possibility of creating a link to one of the local university chaplaincies would be explored in order to widen the search for chaplaincy/catechetical support.

More cross-fertilisation across the three churches of the Parish is happening at events which is really encouraging and a 'save-the-date' slot on the newsletter will be used to flag upcoming opportunities.

The **format of a welcome brochure was considered**. An option offering a simple overview to elicit contact information for new parishioners and provide links to the website would be pursued further.

A health and safety review of St Joseph's church had been undertaken with wiring for emergency lighting being installed alongside the work required to install the debris mill which is being sited in the side porch (near the notice boards) with the British Heart Foundation providing funding for part of the machine. Parishioners will be invited to undertake training and also act as marshalls at masses. It is hoped no rota would be required as enough volunteer parishioners would be trained in response to an appeal in the newsletter.

Further dates had been fixed in December and March.