

Synopsis of St Joseph's Parish Pastoral Committee Meeting – December 2019

Parish AGM - It was encouraging that there was a slight increase in attendance, but representation was still very low given the size of the parish. Useful discussion took place on how to support the Diocesan initiative 'The God Who Speaks' The Year of the Word 2020.

Parish Magazine - Enormous thanks were recorded to Astrid Davies for her long stint as Editor. Discussion took place on possible alternative formats allied with use of the website to ensure engagement and information sharing.

Finance - As ever thanks were due to the Finance Committee for the healthy nature of our finances and the enormous amount of work undertaken by them and Debbie Jackson, our Parish Administrator, to achieve this. It was noted the Diocese had flagged that a planned giving update may be appropriate during 2020 at St Joseph's.

Forward Planning - St Andrew's (MH) are progressing their plans to mark the **800th anniversary** with events in the village. Work continues on how best to update or replace the oil-fired boiler and central heating at St Joseph's to provide a more economical alternative.

On-going Christian Formation - Fr Carlos advised that he was undertaking the sacrament of reconciliation at St Joseph's for years 4, 5 and 6. It was also noted that Daniel D'Cruz had been recently appointed as chaplain at St Mary's and would be working with the Parish in future. As ever provision across all three churches is limited by capacity as elsewhere. As noted at the AGM, diminishing numbers of clergy mean parishes are increasingly sharing priests, resulting in rationalisation necessary to meet demand using available resources.

Social Matters – An excellent Christmas function had taken place at MHR and the Justice&Peace Winter Lunch raised £180 for Sophie and Mike Sullivan's appeal for Bulawayo. ALPS (Across Lourdes Pilgrims & Supporters) coffee morning would commence early in the new year and the Quiz Night on Saturday, 18th January and Barn Dance on Saturday, 7th March would all be advertised in the Newsletter.

AOB - Lea Valley Deanery Fire Marshall Training which will take place on Tuesday, 21st January at 7pm in the Parish Centre. All were urged to attend.