**JPPC APM Report 2023**

The principal role of the Joint Parishes Pastoral Council is to support the parish priest in the development of a strategic and long-term vision for the renewal process for our three parish communities, following the Parish Vision Statement composed in 2019.

The Parish Vision Statement is:

The Catholic Parishes of Rickmansworth, Chorleywood and Mill End aspire to share the Good News of God’s saving love. We are vibrant, welcoming communities, united in worshipping God and serving our neighbours. We invite every person to join us in growing together in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, experiencing and living through the power of the Holy Spirit.

During the past year we have continued to reflect on the activities taking place in the parish under the headings of;

* Discipleship
* Youth
* Communications
* Parish Development Plan – using the 5 values of a parish discussed in Fr James Mallon’s book ‘Divine Renovation’ which are;

(i) Worship – Mass / Prayer meetings

(ii) Evangelisation – How we do reach out from our Church?

(iii) Discipleship – Catechists / How we engage in our faith? How do we develop?

(iv) Fellowship and meaningful community – Socialising and other ways we become more united as three parishes.

(v) Ministry - Service to others: going out to serve the local community and service within the liturgy and the parish activities.

GIFT – was introduced as part of 2022 JPPC, is now in place and proving successful. There are approx. 32 families currently signed up, attending family catechesis 1 Saturday a month and a parent session 1 Wednesday a month online.

Youth Ministry

In December we had our first Youth Mass which was successful, with great attendance at both the Mass and the follow-on dinner. Young people were involved in altar serving, choir, bidding prayers and readings. There are plans to repeat this.

Youth Choir – also introduced as part of 2022 JPPC. The Youth Choir (aged 8-13) sing on a Sunday once a month at Our Lady’s and once a month at St John’s, Mill End. There are rehearsals for the choir on a Tuesday evening each week from 4.30-5.45pm.

Communications

The Website has been updated and combined so that there is now just one website that supports the three parishes, making updates and sharing information much easier and less time consuming.

Social Media has been consistent on Twitter (X) with daily saints of the day and Instagram and Facebook both being used to give service times, parish news, events, updates and reflections.

From discussions on the Parish Development plan the following have been implemented;

* Incense at mass (worship)
* Youth mass (worship)
* Using social media and banners to promote Alpha (Evangelisation)
* Lent Days for ministers (Evangelisation)
* The Welcome message has been amended to include a special welcome to parents with young children, confirming that young children, and the noise they make, are welcome. (Fellowship)