

# Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

## Held on 10.45hrs. 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023

### **Introductions**

The meeting was opened in prayer for the parish.

The attendees introduced themselves.

A message from Fr. Seamus forwarded. He sends his regards to the parishioners of the parish.

### **The Parish Council**

All parishioners of St Hugh of Lincoln are members of the Parish Council. The Parish Council has distinct parts including Administrative and Financial. The Parish Council is also concerned with the Pastoral aspect of the parish. It is the Pastoral aspect that is the focus of this meeting.

### **Book Resource**

‘Becoming a Pastoral Parish Council’

This book was written in a year when Parish Pastoral Councils (PPC) could not meet physically due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The book provides some guidance on what makes the PPC pastoral and how that can be developed as a way of working in all parish groups.

Copies of the book are being sourced so that it may be used to help the development of the Pastoral Parish Council and revival of the parish community.

### **Questions Raised**

What should the role of the Parish Pastoral Council be?

What do we want for the Parish of St Hugh of Lincoln?

What parish groups do the parishioners want?

How can we be more inclusive and reach out to parishioners within the parish that may not be aware of the opportunities they may have in the parish community?

What are we doing within our local communities?

Could we learn from other parishes and consider using ideas from them on what has been going well?

Could we be more involved with our schools?

## **General Notes**

It should be noted that some existing parish groups may need additional support and new groups may be desired. There may be some groups naturally fold.

### **First Holy Communion**

The First Holy Communion children do not read at Mass anymore. It was suggested that this could be reinstated as some of the children enjoyed reading at Mass.

Children need to learn the importance of Holy Communion. We as a parish need to be active to support the children in their development and sense of belonging.

### **Pastoral Ministry Post**

Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew Parish in Hitchin has a paid Pastoral Ministry post. Is this a model we should also consider? If so, how could it be funded?

### **Youth Group**

The parish used to have vibrant Youth Groups. The parish no longer has anything similar to offer the youth and this could be to the detriment of their faith development.

### **The Choir**

The choir used to be downstairs, and this allowed the children to join in with various musical instruments. This opportunity is lost to the children with the choir being in the stalls. Could the choir occasionally be downstairs so that the children can join in?

### **Outreach Within The Parish**

Parishioners (new and cradle Catholics) can feel lost and embarrassed or lack confidence about expressing their faith to others. They may not find it easy to make friends.

Asking someone / being asked can be very powerful and may encourage someone to be active in some way.

‘I think you would be really good ..... Have you considered giving it a go?’

## Coffee Mornings

There are no coffee mornings after Mass. Coffee morning used to be held between the 9.30 am and 11.00 am Masses. Children used to enjoy running around and playing in the hall while the not so young had a chat. This helped build up friendships and a sense of belonging to the parish community. It was suggested that coffee mornings between Masses could be reinstated in the Fortescue Hall.

## Welcoming Group

Are we as a parish putting some parishioners and 'outsiders' by not being as inclusive as we could be? A new parishioner may perhaps feel like an outsider if they do not know the 'rituals', when to stand kneel and sit. Someone welcoming them at Mass and putting them at ease can make all the difference.

It was suggested that the Welcoming Group for all Masses should be re-launched.

## Communications

There are many (if not most) parishioners who are not aware of what is on offer within the parish and what they can offer the parish. Perhaps different communication strategies could be used including:

- The Parish Newsletter and Website.

- Speaking from the Lectern during Mass.

- Welcome Packs.

- Christmas diaries.

- Facebook /WhatsApp etc.

- Notices on the noticeboard.

The noticeboard in the porch is not easily accessible. It was suggested as a trial that a space could be created for a noticeboard or group presentations by removing the 3 pews from the back of the church.

## Mens Group

A Mens Group was suggested.

## Parish and Non-Parish Groups

There were many groups mentioned in the meeting. Some groups mentioned are active within the parish whilst others are no longer active or would be new to the parish.

The groups in no particular order include:

Single Parents	Mothers Payers	Eucharistic Ministry & Visiting the Sick
Altar Servers	Readers	Christian Charismatic
Parish Council	Knights of St Columbus	First Holy Communion
Confirmation	Evening Prayer	RCIA
Flower Arrangers	The Choir	Welcomers
Alpha	Youth Groups	Mens Group

Other groups may have been mentioned but not recorded.

## **Next Meeting**

Next Meeting: Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> at 10.45 in the St Hilda's room.

In addition, an evening meeting is being considered. To be determined

## **Closing Reading and Prayer**

The meeting was closed with a bible reading and in prayer.