

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (JPPC)

Held via Zoom

3rd July 2021

In Attendance:

Fr Shaun Church
Fr Damian Ryan
Sharon Blayney
Margaret Burke
Judy Gordon
Yasmin Lakin
Francis Holly
David Scott
Maria Crossland
Ann Casey
Natalie Zammit

Apologies:

Maggie Stacey
Paul Forrest
Richard Booth

1. Welcome and Prayer.

Fr Shaun welcomed everyone to the 12th meeting of the JPPC. The meeting began with a time of prayer.

2. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – 16th May 2021

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

3. Proposed Revision of the JPPC Terms of Reference.

Fr Shaun explained that he, Fr Damian and the SLT have drafted proposed revisions to the JPPC Terms of Reference with the purpose behind this being to simplify the process ahead of the new parish priest arriving. The key revisions proposed were 1) moving from elections to a period of discernment whereby the members of the JPPC would be selected by the priests and the SLT, and 2) having 3 members from each parish on the JPPC instead of 4. There was unanimous agreement on the proposed revisions. The JPPC Terms of Reference are to be next reviewed in July 2022.

4. Update on Alpha Ministry.

The Alpha Service Team recently held a meeting with Fr Damian to discuss the Alpha vision for the coming year. It was agreed that a face-to-face Alpha would commence in September and be held at Our Lady's on Wednesdays, and the team are hoping to offer another course after Easter. The team also discussed organising a follow on course for those who finish Alpha and they are currently looking into a number of courses. Following Easter, the team would be looking to invite guests onto Kairos and the RCIA, which they are considering doing fortnightly. It was explained that the aim is to streamline the face-to-face Alpha without comprising on efficacy. The team will also continue to run online Alpha alongside face-to-face.

5. Update on Youth Ministry.

It was highlighted that it may be worth having a member of the YMLT attend the JPPC meetings going forwards, so Fr Damian will be looking into this. It was explained that the confirmation masses have now all been completed, but that the young people involved are not at the stage to do Alpha Youth yet. The plan is therefore to organise fortnightly/ monthly meetups with them which will include games and activities, with the aim of inviting them to try Alpha Youth at a later stage. The YMLT are considering extending the confirmation course from 1 year to 1.5 years, and raising

the age at which young people attend confirmation. It has also been suggested that a meeting be organised with parents ahead of their children starting confirmation so that they fully understand why their children are doing it and can therefore support them during the process – suggestions included building a specific Alpha around it or organising something involving both the parents and the children.

6. Update on Kairos Ministry.

There was positive feedback on Kairos that guests are feeling very open in their small groups and that organisationally season 2 has gone very well. Additionally, it was highlighted that guests have really enjoyed the videos and feel like they are getting a lot out of it, and that the merging of some of the groups due to small sizes has been really good. It was generally agreed that the whole group prayer time was very effective for contemplation and generally preferred to the small group intercessory prayer time. It was discussed that going forward those leading intercessory prayer should be given more time and training in order to prepare. The social team are planning to organise a social once it is allowed (potentially in September). Season 3 of Kairos will be launching on 5 October and people will be asked to re-register. Fr Shaun has found a resource that will be used for season 3.

7. Any Other Business.

This is Fr Shaun's final JPPC meeting and he thanked all the members for their commitment to the JPPC. Fr Damian thanked Fr Shaun for his vision and the courage to bring it together in all 3 parishes, and for his leadership.

The meeting concluded at 4pm with prayer.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Saturday 18th September 2021 – 2.30pm to 4.30pm – Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth