

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

Held at St John's Church Mill End

10th July 2023 @ 7.30pm

In Attendance:

Fr Andrew Gallagher
Paul Matarewicz
Beatrix Li
David Kendrick
Margaret Simon
John Donohoe
Jane Irwin

Apologies:

Fr Matteo Di Giuseppe
Fiona Ryan-Watson (left JPPC)
Fainche McDonagh
Mary Mackie
Sue Nolan
Lizzie Quinn

1. **Welcome and Prayer**

Fr Andrew welcomed everyone to the 23rd meeting of the JPPC. The meeting began with a time of prayer.

2. **Appointment of a new Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary**

Paul Matarewicz agreed to take on the role as Chair, Jane Irwin agreed to take on the role of Vice-Chair. The role of Secretary is still open, Fr Andrew will ask a couple of others if they will come forward. In the meantime members of the team will take it in turns to minute take. Jane Irwin minute taking this evening.

3. **Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – 18th March 2023**

Confirmed that concerns over announcements made at the end of Mass on the live stream in regards to finance was raised at the latest FOP meeting, and the response was that this is now standard procedure in parishes across the diocese and is important for transparency.

4. **Discipleship**

GIFT

General comment is that it is going well. Fr Andrew is seeing families at mass and there is engagement with other activities such as altar serving and youth choir. We are now up to 42 families involved with approx 25 families attending each session. Parent sessions have lower attendance. Fr Andrew and the team are looking into future growth and additional support for the team to support the process. The children attending are from a very wide variety of schools, with only a small number attending from St John's School at the moment.

Faith and Friendship group

Feedback is good. Café video resources are very good, broad in topic and thought provoking. Suggestion that the resource is used for other groups eg. Confirmation.

Kairos

Online group meeting once a month. There is a good sized group attending.

Prayer & Life workshops

Tracey & Maria running as hoped. Will do a review to measure success in Autumn.

RCIA

2 of the 3 people that were prepared were received into the church at Easter, unfortunately one of the two have now moved away. Fr Andrew and Beatrix are in contact and working with the third candidate. Lisa, who is still with us looks to be interested in becoming more involved with the church. One person is signed up for RCIA going forward. Time and thought is needed to potentially change the organisation and planning of the process.

Baptisms

Will potentially need to find new catechist as Caitlin moving away. Currently Jane and Tom and his wife are catechists. Process is that family needs to be known to the priest and consistently attending mass for 3 months. Parents can then take part in the Baptism preparation course.

Confirmation

Of the 28 candidates confirmed in May approx. 4 of them have been seen in mass. Caitlin confirmation catechist is leaving so Fr Matteo and Fr Andrew are looking to engage others to join the team. Also thought is being put in to change the approach over the coming years.

5. Youth Ministry

Margaret was in attendance at the meeting this evening and it is planned that a Youth Group rep will be present at JPPC meetings going forward.

The group meets monthly on Tuesdays 6.30-8pm. There is some of the 'older group' that the team are still in touch with and who attend occasionally but many have left for A levels and university.

The new group is a bunch of yr7 girls. Tuesday evening there are ice-breakers, games and faith led activities such as chats, arts and craft, singing or discussion. Conversations can sometimes go off track but they seem to be a committed group.

About 10 of the youth group attended the picnic in June and Margaret is hoping to see many of them at Brass on the Grass on 16th July.

Dates for next years' meetings are being advertised in church noticeboards and social media.

Going forward the team are going to 'get more organised' about the faith element because it is a young group.

The youth group would like to connect in with the other groups in church that are youth related such as confirmation, altar serving, youth choir etc as seeking a joined up approach.

Margaret asked a number of questions about the vision for the youth in the church and proposed a youth mass.

Fr Andrew responded that thought is being put into the future of the youth in the parish. GIFT is a start and will change the current culture. Confirmation will follow a similar process.

Agreed that a Youth Mass shall be organised – proposed date Christ the King (Post meeting the date has been changed to 1st Sunday of Advent). Youth to be as involved as possible for the set up and during the mass i.e. readers, choir, offertory, setting up of the altar, welcoming, flowers etc. This could then process as a 6 monthly event.

Suggestion made for a 'special event' for the year 7 group after the summer.

Possibly someone may re-start the 6pm Sunday mass after party.

6. **Communications - Social media Strategy / website**

Jane provided an update on social media activity;

A group now in place; Jane Irwin, Claire Pride, Lizzie Quinn and David Scott. David leaving the parish but potentially staying on the social media team.

Platforms being used are; Face Book – page and private group, Twitter and Instagram. A proposal for a one-stop shop is being looked at.

Purpose for social media in the parish is to develop community and evangelise

Plans to put out a survey to find out who uses what social media platforms, what people would like to see on the parish social media platforms, is there anyone in the parish wanting to get involved with social media.

Focus at the moment is just to get regular content on the existing platforms

In the future, the plans discussed are; to branch out onto Rickmansworth FB groups in order to target an audience that is outside the parish. Post 'parishioner profiles' so people can put a face to name in church. Include RIP notices, Fr Andrew pointed out that in some instances RIP notices with a photograph are on the parish noticeboards. These can be photographed and shared on social media going forward.

Fr Andrew provided update on website situation;

Progress on the website has stalled for now but will pick up again in August. All 3 parish sites will be combined into 1. The structure will remain the same but the site will be 'jazzed up'.

We talked about aligning website and social media branding.

ACTION for all present to go onto the website and register using the online form – this online form will replace the existing excel spreadsheet and will make comms and GDPR processes easier. It's been 12 years since the last census so data is in need of an update.

7. **Parish Development Plan - WORSHIP**

Description - Primarily Mass but can also include prayer meetings and times of praise experienced in small groups.

6 months - Christ the King Youth Mass/ Party, 6pm Folk Group settle, Incense at 11am, Servers

12 months - Youth Readers/ Musicians/ Welcomers

5 years - Youth Choir/ Music Group

8. Any Other Business

Fr Andrew is in talks with St Peter's in relation to setting up a parent and toddler group.

Thought to be put into post bereavement support to families following funerals – not counselling but to 'journey' with spouses and family members. – look into next year.

Consider a way in which the parish can reach out to the isolated in the community.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 11th September 2023 @ 7pm

Venue: Our Lady's - Rickmansworth