

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting held 6th April in the Presbytery at 19.30

Attendees

Father Philip

Chris Hills

Mia Bernedo

Eileen Tomkins

Tom O'Neill

Clea Harmer

Joseph Gargaro

Lawrence Fernee

Peter Brazier

Apologies from

Caroline Pung

1 Meeting opened at 19.30 with an opening prayer led by Fr Philip

2 Previous minutes were approved

3 Father Philip update

It was a year ago that Father Philip arrived and he thanked everyone for the warm welcome and support. He outlined key points as follows;

Positives

- PCC now up and running
- Ecumenical relationships are good as are Churches together in Royston and District and the local Minister Fraternity
- Sunday Masses- things go well with many involved- sacristans, flowers and music etc

Performance Observations and comments

- The need and desire to develop who we are as missionary disciples (as urged by Pope Francis).
- The parish did not have a big involvement in the recent event in this area.
- The Question was posed as to how we look outwards and how we can/should relate to the local community.
- How can we get those on the fringe more involved.
- The desire to set up an Evangelisation team was raised and discussed and it was suggested that we need to consider how we want to/can do this. There is no need to rush in but Father Philip's long term wish is that in 10 years he/we can say that we made the parish more Evangelising.
- It would be good to develop more confident (and new) catechists. The Confirmation team was mentioned as an example. A similar model as for the First Communion could be considered.

- To help Catechists it may be appropriate and beneficial to arrange some training in how 'to grow in confidence'. There are courses we could send people on and this would be a good thing to consider.

4 Parish Office Opening Hours

Fr Philip mentioned that in Hatfield the Office was open the same time everyday and that this had been effective.

Here it opens different times on different days. Sharon took over using the existing hours and may not be available each morning due to current school duties.

The team were asked to reflect and input. Lawrie pointed out that the Newsletter deadline in Tuesday evening.

At present the Finance Committee budget for 8 hours per week.

Joseph suggested volunteers.

There was discussion regarding hours and Clea suggested we may be wise to get feedback as to what suits and rethink. Lawrie reminded all that the Royston market is held each Wednesday when parishioners from the villages may come into Royston.

This is to be explored and taken forward.

5 AGM

It was proposed that a Parish AGM be held and **Sunday 18th June proposed at 11.45**. This start time suggested as it is straight after the 10.30 mass. A bring and share lunch suggested

Please note the date in diaries

6 Matters Arising

1 Sacramental programmes- there is a need to plan in the next rotation and check that people are ready to carry on

2 Caroline had sent information on Catholic Voices and **Actions** were taken to get information on the other 2 projects

Chris to get info on the local Homeless Project and Mia to get information on 'Homestart'.

3 Holy Week plans are published in the Newsletter and there is a Poster with full details.

7 Parishioners questions

None raised

8 Welcoming Committee

There had been a case where a new parishioner filled in a form but then nothing happened. There is a Poster advertising this but nothing is followed through. It was suggested that this is something the Evangelising Committee/Team could do.

9 Issues raised previously

Premises- it was unclear who would deal with queries. Fr Philip suggested / requested that queries should be routed through him or the office. There is a premises committee but they don't actively undertake the actions needed.

Parish Centenary Plans

The church celebrates 100 years in either 2018 or 2019 depending on which event is treated as the 'start'. The new church was opened on the Feast of the Annunciation 1919 which will be on 25th March in 2019.

The question was raised as to what do we as a Parish want to do to mark this event. A physical project such as a Porch was suggested. There would need to be fund raising as there are no available funds for such a venture. If this was to be taken forward a 'guess' would be some £35/45K but it could be up to £100K if a more enclosed structure were to be considered. Clea suggested that 'porch' did not sound exciting and Father Philip suggested calling the project the Parish Narthex was better. Glass door and an enclosed entrance were mentioned.

This will/can be discussed at the parish AGM

Joe suggested inviting the Cardinal to say a Celebratory mass, Fr Philip said he would be pleased to do so.

Evangelisation team- this had been previously covered

10 Next Meetings

July meeting moved to 12th July at 19.30

October meeting set for Wednesday 18th October

11 Retreat event to be held for Eucharistic Ministers and other Special Ministers

This was discussed and Father Philip will explore getting a guest speaker/facilitator as was arranged for the Readers event.

Date for the diary 23rd September.

12 AOB

There was no AOB and Father Philip closed the meeting with a prayer.