

# SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 7 September 2023 in the Parish Lounge

## AGENDA

<p><b>1. Welcome, opening prayer and apologies</b></p> <p>The meeting was opened in prayer at 8pm by Jude Mariadoss. Present were: Annette Campbell-Black, Teresa Engley, Ruth Naylor (Chair), Jude Mariadoss, Siobhan Heffron, Christopher Woodward (for the Finance Committee), Sr Dorothy Perrott, Maria Christopher, Deacon Julian Burling, Primavera Moretti (taking minutes), Fr Joseph Donkor, Fr Matthew Donnelly, Fr David Gibbons. Giovanni Peruzzo, parish lead for formation, was also present as an observer. Apologies were received from: Rachel Purvis, David Hurst and Max Toone. Fr David introduced himself and those present gave their names, roles and favourite hymns. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by the chair. They will be uploaded to the website shortly.</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of last meeting</b></p> <p>Status on actions which will not be picked up in agenda items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Compost Bin and Shrubs (Chris) – Finance committee agreed in principle to fund this – now back with Patricia (in charge of flowers) to say what they need.</li><li>● Advertising Young Adults Events on WhatsApp or by other means - Ruth will pick this up with Max to work out what they're comfortable with advertising.</li><li>● Parish appeal update (Chris) – waiting for August figures (finance cttee meets on Monday). Doesn't look that encouraging but might take a while for new standing orders to come through. Sr Dorothy asked if she can now remove the box for Gift Aid / appeal forms. Chris agreed.</li><li>● Confession Times (Ruth) comment from feedback form from individuals that it would be good to have confession for longer than half an hour before mass. Primavera commented that we have the longest and most extensive confessions times of pretty much any church in South-West London. We will just take note and see if there is further feedback from other people and Fr David said we'd keep an eye on it and see how it goes. Sr Dorothy pointed out that mass shouldn't start late because of confession.</li><li>● Kneeling at Communion (Ruth/Priests). People who like to kneel should feel comfortable about it. People are kneeling on the floor and struggling to get up. A lot of people do it. There is a step they could kneel on and putting a cushion there would show there's an option and ministers could distribute from behind the altar rail. Keep it under review.</li><li>● PPC Mission and Reflections –<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. everyone felt it was very positive to hear from leaders of parish groups should be continued. Rachel Marshall coming to October meeting to</li></ol></li></ul>	<p>Patricia</p> <p>Ruth</p> <p>Chris, Sr Dorothy</p>

<p>talk about family liturgy 10am – if anyone has specific ones they want to come along let Ruth know. Agreed this was a positive.</p> <p>b. Importance of social events was underlined so we'll dedicate some time to looking at the timetable of events across the year and how they'll be organised and advertised across the year in a logical fashion.</p> <p>c. ALSO Welcoming – should we bring this up as a meeting. PPC to go to breakfast/coffee morning to introduce themselves. Flyer to summarise the regular weekly opportunities and on social media. Ruth happy to draft copy.</p> <p>d. Notice board photos are out of date – have individual shots for each person otherwise you have to keep updating them – easier to update one person at a time. Ask John Stone, professional photographer. We need to work out which groups need to go on there. Chris will organise. And relevant updates will be made to the website. Each group is meant to update their web pages but this isn't really happening.</p> <p>e. Blue notice boards outside the church have the wrong information – Thelma should know (they're relatively new) – Fr David will get Thelma to look into it. She used to have a volunteer who would update the physical copy of the newsletter in the noticeboard but doesn't at the moment.</p>	
<p><b>3. Updates from the clergy</b></p> <p>Fr Joe wanted to thank the PPC for its support since Fr John left. Everyone has been working very hard while waiting for Fr David's arrival. As of 1<sup>st</sup> September he has taken over the parish. Fr Joe will be supporting Fr David until 1<sup>st</sup> October when he goes on to the Cathedral.</p> <p>The Ukrainian project has come to an end, the grandparents have gone home, and the mother now has a job (and daughter – will be attending school) they have a small flat for the two of them and the mother has a job with which she can sustain herself. The good news will go in newsletter, and we should also thank Alain, the project manager.</p> <p>There was a home group started following the Synod initiative. They meet on a regular basis. There are also less formal groupings where people come together and pray and discuss and have a presentation with an element of instruction, communion and an impetus for mission. They are open but many PPC members were not aware of them. Jude to think about how to build this into something more open and invitational.</p> <p>There are several new families in the parish, including some from Korea and Croatia, so we should do a welcoming mass for new parishioners as part of a regular Sunday mass. The first</p>	<p>Fr Matthew and Alain to arrange the news to be shared in the newsletter</p> <p>JUDE</p> <p>Further PPC discussion to take place on these initiatives</p>

<p>Continental breakfast this academic year is Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Feed this into the discussion on welcoming.</p> <p>PPC gave our best wishes to Fr Joe.</p>	
<p><b>4. Safeguarding</b></p> <p>We don't currently have a Safeguarding Lead in the parish. We need to find a volunteer urgently. Ruth and Primi have been asking around and no-one has come forward yet. We need at least 2, ideally 3 or 4. If someone has experience in social work or schools that can be helpful. It's a big responsibility but we can't process any new volunteers at the moment. Amy can do the DBS checks, but she can't initiate the process. Volunteers need to go through a Safer Recruitment process. Chris says the Diocese says we could work through Christ the King. They could do the validation of individuals, but we're not sure how this would work. It's not the sort of role one can really ask for volunteers for. Siobhan said she could be part of a team (and it was acknowledged that her experience would be very useful) but not lead it, due to lack of capacity. Those with ideas should send a list of people to Fr David. He's seeing the head teachers this week and can discuss with them and with James Potter (Chaplain at Wimbledon College). Annette and Giovanni thought they might know someone who might help as part of a group.</p>	<p>Fr David, Primi, Anette, Giovanni</p>
<p><b>5. Catechists' day 30<sup>th</sup> September</b></p> <p>Diocesan event at the Cathedral, costing the parish £10 a head. Sr Dorothy will be going. It's useful. There are different streams. Fr David introduced it when he was head of the formation centre. There's a Mass afterwards at which the Archbishop will commission catechists. Action: Sr Dorothy to let the catechists know about it.</p> <p>Catechism is on hold at the moment until replacement for Eleanor is found.</p> <p>Infant baptism sessions are still going on as usual.</p>	<p>Sr Dorothy</p>
<p><b>6. Parish Community initiatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christmas Lunch: Ruth will check with the volunteers who said they'd organise it to ask what help/support they need.</li> <li>● Merton Citizens: The rep from the charity Victoria is coming to Continental Breakfast on 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. This can be advertised in the</li> </ul>	<p>Ruth</p>

<p>newsletter. Merton Citizens are meeting with our local MP at Sacred Heart tomorrow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Night Shelter: this year being run by Nandita Nelson and Susie Wallat-Vago. An item will be going in the newsletter in the next couple of weeks for volunteers and a second collection.</li> </ul> <p>In the absence of David Hurst, other items will be covered in the October meeting.</p>	
<p><b>7. AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection baskets: from feedback someone said people prefer pouches for the collection rather than baskets. Sr Dorothy said they're difficult to empty. And it's hard to put the notes and envelopes in the slit. Baskets are easier. Diocese won't issue new people with GA envelopes as they're trying to phase them out in favour of standing orders. Someone asked how much we think we get from occasional visitors. Sr Dorohty pointed out there's a supply of GA envelopes at the back but people tend not to use them. Visitors generally use the machines. Primavera suggested that we need a discussion about the spiritual act of giving – the liturgical action of bringing up gifts and what the act of making a physical offering does for us. Action – to add to agenda at some point, especially in relation to the recent appeal -</li> <li>• Catechesis? There isn't a team to carry things on now that Eleanor has gone, but there are lots of children registered for 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion and Confirmation. It takes two years to fully train catechists. We have no choice but to advertise for a replacement. Will be discussed at Finance Cttee. As part of the Job spec their responsibility will be to recruit and train catechists. There are lots of people who volunteer to help out but they're not trained catechists. 1<sup>st</sup> Communion mass dates have been set. Maybe the course might have to be truncated. Thelma is going to put something in the newsletter telling parents that it is in hand. Fr David will mention it to the heads of the schools in case there's someone suitable. Eleanor came from a course at St Mary's. She started as a Youth Minister but ended up taking on Catechesis as well.</li> </ul>	<p>Primi</p> <p>Fr David/Thelma</p>
<p><b>8. Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 8pm in Parish Lounge</p>	
<p><b>9. CLOSING PRAYER</b></p> <p>Jude closed the meeting in prayer.</p>	

