

# Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council

## Minutes of the Meeting held 28th September 2021, 7:00pm

**Present:** Philippa Smallwood (Chairperson); Fr Kieran Kirby (President); Martin Overy; Monica Overy; MariaQuinn; Rosalba Villarreal; Eduardo Villarreal; Karmen Trice (Minutes)

**Opening prayer:** Fr. Kieran

1. **Apologies:** Rev Kelvin Russell, Rev Delian Bower, Federico Caprotti, Kenneth Cheek, Michael Quinn, Fr Albert Lawes
2. **Minutes of meeting 02.06.2021 and matters arising (recruiting Sacristy volunteers)**
  - **Safeguarding Rep to be recruited** - Andrew Blewett has now been appointed as the Safeguarding Rep for Sacred Heart Church.
  - **Recruiting Sacristy Volunteers** – Fr Kieran has approached a few people and is waiting on responses. The duties (including cleaning brass etc.) are to be shared between several volunteers and does not need to be done at set hours. Training will be given. Prayers to continue for Volunteers.
  - **Matters Arising** –
    - A discussion was had about the Newsletter and its format. It is felt that not as many people as we would like are reading the Newsletter, making announcements in church very important.
    - Philippa raised the topic of screens in church which could be controlled from an iPad. These could be used for Hymns and Mass responses. Fr Kieran said that although it might be difficult to get permission to have this done due to the listed status of the building it was something that he was open too. Although some people may not like screens in church it was felt that the positive benefits of screens mean it is worth pursuing. Blessed Sacrament have templates that they use for services, and they could share them with SH. It was felt that a young person may be willing to operate the iPad. Karmen will make some initial enquiries.

### 3. Parish 3 Minute Survey

So far, 35 responses have been received. These responses were received mainly through the google form although a few hard copies were received too. Although there were fewer responses than expected, it highlighted a few potential Catechists. It was decided to give this survey a further push including a brief explanation at the end of Mass to explain its usefulness and purpose.

#### **4. Welcoming Parishioners**

Although Covid is still restricting how we welcome people to the church, plans are to be made for how this will be done in the future. A training session will be offered before this service resumes and it is hoped to have a group of welcomers at each service with a variety of ages and genders within this group. An appeal for volunteers will be made in the future and then a training session will be offered.

**Soft Toy bags** – A parishioner has offered to sponsor a few ‘soft play’ bags for families with young children to use during Mass. It was thought the bags could include some bible stories and perhaps knitted toy puppets. It was suggested that families could be approached about what they thought would be useful in the bags. The Little Bridge Book shop has some resources, and these will be investigated.

**Craft Afternoons** – Fr Kieran suggested that a ‘craft afternoon’ group could be created which would make things for charity. It could also raise money for WAYmakers. This led to an idea of a Christmas Fayre. It was thought the Fayre could have a sustainable and reusable focus.

#### **5. Social Action – Fundraising in Covid times –**

- A parishioner forwarded an enquiry asking if anyone with expertise in sustainability in the parish would like share expertise with other Christians in Exeter to help with the environmental movement. Maria mentioned that she is enrolled on a ‘Guardians of Creation’ course and will liaise with the parishioner.
- A ‘Live Simply Christmas’ notice will be made available at the end of November, to help parishioners consider a ‘sustainable’ Christmas. The church will be buying trees with roots this year so they can be used again.
- Martin shared that the Coffee money raised so far in aid of WAYmakers is currently at £520. This will all go towards the funding needed to support a refugee family. The total amount needed (initially) is 9k. This is split equally (3k) between, Sacred Heart, Blessed Sacrament and WAYmakers. Currently, the biggest issue is housing. A presentation to both churches and perhaps St Nicholas School was suggested to support raising funds and keep everyone more informed about the project. Until suitable housing is identified the project is on hold, as this will impact school applications etc.
- More volunteers are needed for serving Coffee and cleaning up after.

- 6. Mass requests online and their confirmation, and mass times** – It was discussed that a mass intention booking was not confirmed. Fr Kieran will apologise to the person involved. Mass times will remain at 9.15am and 11.15am on a Sunday, we also have to bear in mind that the church still needs cleaning after Masses. A few families have commented that they prefer the new times as they are not rushed to get home for lunch and can stay for fellowship and refreshments.
- 7. Update on Church situation regarding Covid – Martin** – Attendance numbers are now increasing and occasionally have been as high as 175. We are over 95 people at the 9.15am Mass and 120 at the 11.15am Mass. Saturday currently, has low attendance. The seating arrangement is to remain in place.
- 8. Building Issues –**
- The heating has now been fixed.
  - The lighting in church will be fixed this week.
  - The boiler tap is broken, and Nevada are going to be contacted to fix this.
  - Solar Panels for the church roof are to be investigated. Initially the church was denied permission for solar panels due to its listed status, however it will be kept in mind for the future. If an application is made and turned down the money would be wasted. This is a long-term aspiration.
- 9. Church Synod** – Fr Kieran shared the early stages of a new consultation Pope Francis is launching. The consultation is planned to help the Church to engage in being more Missionary, using the theme, ‘For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission. Bishop Mark and his Bishop’s council reflection document, ‘A Precious Place of God’s Grace’ is to be dovetailed into this synodal journey. Phase 1 is a time of listening to local churches. This phase will continue during advent. It will include a focus on reaching and engaging the poor and excluded and will be adapted to each Parish. There will be training available in Oct/Nov 21. There is already a group working on this in the Diocese and is thought to be a 2-year process.
- 10. Divine Renovation – Maria Quinn** – Maria shared a book called Divine Renovation – From a Maintenance to a Missional Parish, Fr James Mallon. This is a model of ministry started in Canada in 2016. In 2019 Maria went to a conference on this theme

and Blessed Sacrament has been on this journey for 4 years. It was due to this model that the parishes of SH and BS started working together and in fact, the role of Parish Pastoral assistant came out of this initiative. The programme gives the Church the courage to change things up. Fr James said, 'What we are doing is not working,' and this allows us to acknowledge that we need to change things. The programme allows you to intentionally target families. Examples of how we have changed were shared and included;

- **Parish Leadership (joint)**
- **Alpha teams across both parishes**
- **Growing and building confidence in new leaders who assist the priests and pastoral assistant**
- **Connect initiative**
- **GIFT**

Maria shared how the programme started at Blessed Sacrament with a small group of people who met together every other week to read a couple of chapters of the book and reflect upon them. Sacred Heart now aim to do the same. A small group will be formed, separate to the PPC, to read the book together. There are 5 short videos for those who do not want to read the book. Fr Kieran has a few people in mind, and he will approach them.

**11. Next meeting** – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 at 7.00pm.