

# Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council

## Minutes of the Meeting held 2nd June 2021, Online Zoom, 7:00pm

**Present:** P. Smallwood (Chairperson); Fr Cyriacus; Fr Kirby; Martin Overy; Monica Overy; Rev Delian Bower; Maria Quinn; Michael Quinn; Federico Caprotti; Ken Cheek; Rosalba Villarreal; Eduardo Villarreal; Karmen Trice (Minutes)

**Opening prayer:** Fr. Kieran

**Apologies:** Rev Kelvin Russell

**Introductions:** Philippa opened the meeting by thanking everyone for joining the new Pastoral Council. Each Member introduced themselves.

### **Constitution:**

Section D12 – Fr Kieran is the current representative from the Finance committee, but another person will be appointed when necessary.

Section K – Fr Kieran confirmed that we had no ‘Chapels-of-Ease’ and that Topsham was a separate Parish.

Section E3 – It was confirmed that the committee could be fluid with people being appointed as time goes on, however the number should not exceed 12. It was pointed out that the members currently on the committee were all from the 9.15am Mass and therefore not as diverse as it could be. Fr Kieran agreed that there was a lack of diversity but did comment that he had approached many people who were unable or unwilling to join at this time due to a variety of reasons. The committee discussed the possibility of building up relationships with people through asking them to do small tasks. It was also felt that perhaps people may have a misunderstanding of what the PPC do. It is hoped, in time, this may be resolved.

Safe-Guarding Rep – It is felt that the Parish needs a Safe-guarding rep that is resident in the parish. All agreed. Fr Kieran asked people to think and pray about who they might approach to take up the role.

### **Adoption of the Constitution**

Proposed by Martin Overy

Seconded by Philippa Smallwood

Unanimously agreed by the PPC

## **Catholic Exeter**

The committee heard from Maria Quinn about the numerous links through a number of groups that join Sacred Heart and Blessed Sacrament. These groups include but are not limited to, GIFT, Baptism Prep, Youth work and Alpha Courses, as well as Maria's role as a Pastoral Assistant and Erik Renz's role as the Youth Worker.

The council discussed the fact that the Newsletter was often duplicated by both churches and was also far too long. Fr Kieran stated that the more he thought and prayed about it, the more it made sense for the Newsletter to become a joint newsletter with Blessed Sacrament. The council all agreed that as long as each church could keep its own identity then the joining of newsletters would be good as it would continue to build the relationship between the two churches and many people attend both. In the meantime, there would be a conscious effort to shorten the newsletter using links to the website, however, in current times especially, it is important to remember the newsletter contains a lot of information as many people are still unable to attend church and shielding at home. It was confirmed that a paper copy of the newsletter was also being sent to those who did not have access to the internet.

The Facebook pages of both churches have already been amalgamated into one under the name of Catholic Exeter. It was felt that this is currently a little one sided, but this will be amended by Sacred Heart uploading more posts to it.

The Council opted to join the Newsletters but Fr Kieran would like the final decision to be made by the parishioners.

## **Mini-Survey**

A mini-survey was discussed to collate peoples skills and interests for the good of the parish. It was agreed that a copy of the mini-survey would be available on the website and a paper copy at the back of the church. A Google forms survey would also be created and distributed via the Newsletter.

It was also felt that people should be approached face to face when we have areas that are lacking volunteers, as well as appeals during services.

## **Return to Mass**

It is felt it would be lovely to have a celebration of being able to return to Mass. Fr Kieran would also like to officially open the Pastoral Centre as well as have a thank you gathering for all the Stewards and Cleaners who have been working so hard to ensure people can attend Mass. Several options were discussed but it was decided to make a final decision when the Lockdown restrictions end.

Martin Overy was formally thanked for all he has done during Lockdown.

Martin shared that attendance numbers at Mass were improving. Fr Kieran advised that the Bishop would guide us about the obligation to attend Mass.

A Requiem Mass will be held for all those who died during lockdown and for families who were unable to attend their loved ones' funerals when the restrictions are lifted.

(Ken Cheek left the meeting at 8.30pm)

### **Social Action**

The Parish Audit highlighted the need to involve the Parish in Social Action, including our young people.

Exeter Waymakers, a Community Sponsorship Group whose members span Catholic Exeter (i.e. both Exeter parishes), are going to welcome a Syrian family who are currently in a refugee camp in Lebanon. This is a huge project with a lot of organisations involved. It would be good for the whole Parish to be involved. The PPC would like to support with fundraising - Monica Overy as PPC liaison. The family will be chosen by the government and not by the Waymakers.

Maria Quinn felt that she could perhaps use the Waymakers project as a learning opportunity in school.

### **Proposed Dates for future meetings:**

(Federico Caprotti left the meeting at 8.45pm)

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

24<sup>th</sup> November 2021

16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

In-service training day to be arranged between Feb and May 2022

### **Recruiting Volunteers**

We need someone to clean the Sacristy a few times a week and someone to set up for Mass, trim candles and other small jobs.

Fr Kieran asked everyone to think and pray about who they could approach to help do these jobs.

### **AOB**

None

A closing prayer was said and the meeting ended at 8.52pm.