

**SACRED HEART PARISH
 CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH PASTORAL
 COUNCIL HELD ON 7 JANUARY 2016
 in the Parish Lounge**

PRESENT

Members: Jenny Cairns (Chair), Kate Kirkland (Vice Chair), Polly Harrison, Raja Gomez, Chris Woodward, Anne Waldron, Matthew Hill, Polly Harrison, Faye McGillian (for part of meeting)

Parish Team: Canon John Clark

Apologies for Absence: Rehana Edun-Noyes

AGEND A		ACTION
1.	<p>Opening of meeting Jenny opened the meeting and asked Anne to take the minutes as Faye was delayed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Apologies for absence: from Rehana b. Opening prayers: were led by Jenny 	
2.	<p>Identification of items for 'Any other urgent business' Although not 'urgent' Raj and Matthew updated the meeting on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Raj reported that the Christmas event (a literary event based on the Christmas theme) at Raynes Park Library had been very successful. There had been 29 readers, 20 contributors and about 40 people in attendance. It had been an inclusive event with participation from a number of local Churches and schools, and many younger people. b. Matthew provided an update on the confirmation programme. There are 91 registered candidates and the kick off day on 13 December had gone brilliantly with a great atmosphere and 65 people candidates attending. Katherine Thompson had done an excellent job in developing the content for the day and Fr Tad had also contributed. The programme was due to begin on 24 January, and on 12 January there was to be a meeting of the core group of catechists. Sr Dorothy and Potty were providing administrative support. Matthew had also reached out to the parents of confirmation candidates over the past 2 years to suggest they might get involved as catechists – 22- emails sent and so far 3 volunteers. Polly said she would also suggest some names. c. Jenny said it was great to start the year on such a positive note and thanked both Raj and Matthew for their very positive updates. 	
3.	<p>Minutes of last meeting agreed as accurate. With reference to matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Raja suggested raising the matter of the library again. It was agreed that this matter be put on the agenda for the February or March meeting of the PPC b. Matthew suggested that we take a proactive approach on the prospective recruitment of a new Youth Minister, for example by reaching out to St Mary's University. He would be happy to go to speak to the current year of students graduating in the summer. It was agreed that he would liaise with Kate Kirkland who works at the University c. Polly asked what was being done on World Youth Day in Poland. Canon John reported that a Diocesan group would be going, and that any group from the Parish would 	

	<p>probably join them. Participants needed to be at least 18 years old although 16 and 17 year olds could join in if part of a group where the min age was 18 and they would be well supported. Canon John said that any arrangements/communication should be with the Diocesan Youth Office. It was agreed that Polly would contact the Diocesan Youth Office and Matthew would talk to the young adults group to gauge interest. It was noted that a sum of money has been set aside for a possible subsidy for any parish group attending this event.</p> <p>d. Jenny updated the meeting on the Parish Pilgrimage. This had been advertised twice and so far 16 parishioners had expressed interest. The Pilgrimage would be advertised throughout January.</p> <p>e. Year of Mercy: there was a discussion about maintaining momentum for the Year of Mercy following the beautiful Mass and launch event in December. Canon John said that the Life in the Spirit seminars would begin in February and were being advertised. Chris suggested that a short Year of Mercy prayer be included in the bidding prayers each week, and it was also agreed that that the person introducing/welcoming before the start of the Mass could say the Year of Mercy Prayer. The prayer could also be printed on the front of the newsletter each week for ease of reference. A further idea was to move the display boards to the back of the Church.</p>	
	STANDARD BUSINESS/INFORMATION MATTERS	
4.	<p>Matters dealt with by the executive group since the last meeting</p> <p>The executive group had not met since the last meeting.</p> <p>Jenny informed the meeting that the process for electing new members to the PPC was underway, and encouraged all members to reach out to potential candidates and encourage them to volunteer.</p>	
5.	<p>Standing items:</p> <p>a. Finances and building works – report from Chris Woodward</p> <p>Chris reported that there had been two plant failures: there had been a flood in the boiler room and the electrics in the lower hall kitchen had burned out. More problems could be imminent. Matthew suggested that we do a plant and machinery survey and said he could make recommendations for a suitable expert. Chris said that the Finance Committee would consider this, and that in any event the Committee was looking for a person with buildings experience to contribute. This would be advertised in the newsletter.</p> <p>b. Items raised by Parishioners</p> <p>2 items had been raised:</p> <p>i. Fair Trade: Catherine Edser had volunteered to organise a Fair Trade Breakfast for Sunday 13 March and had contacted Polly to suggest this to the PPC. The PPC warmly supported this idea and it was agreed that Polly would go back to Catherine and give her the ‘go ahead’. Mathew said he had mentioned the idea to the young adults group and it was also confirmed that there were no conflicting events in the Parish Diary.</p> <p>ii. First Friday Adoration: one PPC member had been contacted about the apparent cancellation of the First Friday adoration on New Year’s Day. Canon John confirmed that the Church had in fact been open all day, with an extra Mass at 6.30pm. It was also noted that the Christmas Masses had been exceptionally well supported, with 6,000 people attending Mass.</p>	

	<p>The key point was that 1st January was a bank holiday. It was difficult/unreasonable to expect one of the usual key-holders to take responsibility for locking the church at midnight on a bank holiday. For the first time additional opportunities for adoration on New Year's Day were available to the wider parish. The church was open for adoration for the entire day as well as there being a 6.30pm Mass - in addition to the 10am Mass which in previous years had been the sole Mass on New Year's Day. Our sense was that this approach had been very much appreciated by many parishioners.</p> <p>Canon John informed us that a number of regular attendees at the First Friday Adoration come from outside the parish. He said that he would have had no problem at all with any of those individuals expressing disquiet at his decision approaching their own or other parish priests in the area to find out whether it was possible for their local parish church to be offered as an alternative venue open until midnight for this purpose.</p> <p>PPC members greatly appreciate how lucky we are as a parish to have the monthly First Friday Adoration.</p> <p>c. Deanery information Nothing to report.</p> <p>d. Report from Think Tank Nothing to report (Think Tank had not met since the last PPC meeting)</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Any other urgent business See item 2 above</p>	
	<p>DISCUSSION ITEMS – PARISH PRIORITIES ETC</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Matters which Canon John wishes to raise Canon John had no matters to raise</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Building Missionary Parishes</p> <p>The meeting reviewed and discussed the one page guide developed by the Diocese. Canon John commented we had done a lot of this kind of work in the Parish before. The idea was to have a re-think about where we are now, what we are doing well, what is the next level. The PPC noted that there was already so much going on in the Parish, although probably less than 10% of parishioners were actively involved. Canon John said that people came to Church for lots of different reasons. That said there was something very important about contact between and with parishioners. Polly talked about the previous work done in the Parish using surveys and suggested we should be careful about undertaking a similar survey or exercise as this needed to be managed well and feedback provided.</p> <p>Canon John suggested a possible way forward:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Look at the Parish Plan and put this to a variety of groups, asking them how we are doing, and what we could do more of; or b. Conscious of the need for people to get in touch with one another, establish some 'road groups' around the Parish on a short term basis, and perhaps link this to the Year of Mercy. The object would be to get people together over a cup of tea. <p>Jenny summarised our response as follows:</p>	

	<p>We already have an 'audit' so should concentrate on working through existing groups in the Parish, encouraging 'neighbourhood groups' and possibly doing a 'Freshers Fair' type event (something that had been done in the past).</p>	
9.	<p>Paper on Loneliness Chris Woodward had prepared a paper on Loneliness/Supporting the Lonely and what the Parish might do to respond to this very common issue. Jenny commented that many of the older parishioners felt the loss of the Jesuits, as they had felt 'known' when the Jesuits were here. Different approaches and ideas were discussed, including welcome packs and the possibility of making loneliness an area of focus eg through the Year of Mercy. Canon John recommended that all mull over and reflect on these ideas, and to come back to the next meeting with practical ideas and suggestions.</p>	
	CONCLUDING MATTERS	
10.	<p>Items for inclusion in Edgeways Jenny suggested a note about elections to the PPC.</p>	
11.	<p>Date of next meeting Thursday 4 February at 8.00pm in Canon John's lounge.</p>	