

SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 2nd March 2023

MINUTES

<p>1.0 Welcome</p> <p>Ruth Naylor, in the Chair, opened the meeting in prayer at 8.10. Apologies for absence were received from Julian Burling, Maria Christopher and Eleanor Bowman.</p> <p>Present were Jude Mariadoss, Christopher Woodward, Teresa Engley, David Hurst, Primavera Moretti (taking notes), Canon John Clark, Anette Campbell-Black, Rachel Purvis,. Siobhan Heffron, Sr Dorothy Perrott. Also in attendance were Giovanni Peruzzo, Margherita Laffranchi from the School of Community.</p>	All
<p>2.0 Minutes of 2 February meeting</p> <p>Paul has given editing permission for PPC section of website and PPC mailbox so that this email address is on the website as the official means of communication. Ruth has set up a Google feedback form which has been tested and works. There will be a notice in the parish newsletter ahead of each PPC meeting inviting people to submit queries/suggestions/comments. <u>Action: Ruth reminded those present to send her a photo and short biography for the website.</u></p> <p><u>Action: Primi add commissioning mass to April agenda.</u></p> <p>Letter of welcome to new Salvation Army ministers has been drafted and will go out shortly.</p>	All Primi
<p>3.0 How can we support our Parish Groups?</p> <p>We welcomed Giovanni Peruzzo, Margherita Laffranchi from The School of Community (which is part of the Communion and Liberation (C&L) movement). Coming to mass has been a good way to connect with local people. The School of Community offers a weekly catechesis as a way to gather together and discuss life and faith, and how faith drives our choices and experiences. The discussions can be about work, friendship, family life and how the teaching of the Church helps support that. They mainly work on texts written by the founder of the Communion and Liberation movement, Mgr Luigi Giussani. He was an Italian priest who started connecting with secondary school students in the 1950s when he stopped teaching in a seminary. Italy was still a religious country but even then, there was a big difference between the teaching of the Church and the reality that young people experienced on the ground. The movement started growing especially as his followers started to grow up and it began to spread around the world. This teaching is for everyone in any walk of life, whether they are Catholic or not. It's a method of approaching reality and daily life. The group meet every week on Friday evening. There are about 50 people involved (some who've been in the movement since they were teenagers). The meetings follow a format similar to Lectio Divina; they work on a text</p>	

which people can prepare in advance and they share their thoughts, experiences and questions about the texts. The meeting lasts an hour and then have a light meal, e.g. pizza, together. There is no commitment and you can just drop in, although people will get more out if they commit to the community. The movement has houses of lay consecrated people called Memores Domini [This means 'those who remember the Lord'. They hold their goods in common, they practice chastity and live under obedience, but they do not wear religious habits or take vows]. There are 2,200 around the world. The movement has its own priests. The Sacred Heart group is trying to get involved in doing some volunteering/charity work; some of the members are now working with Care for Calais and helped with night shelter. They might be doing something with PACT in Wandsworth but there is a lot of red tape involved in prison work. Sometimes groups from across parishes get together. There is a summer retreat for a week in July and they are working with CSSA (Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency) to get it formalised for activities for teenagers. It was noted that if such a retreat were to be hosted by the parish C&L would need to go through the parish safeguarding rep, but if proposed by the national C&L it would be through CSSA. Nevertheless, the group would need to liaise with Eleanor to make sure their activities complement what is being done in the parish. The group has a page on the website, but Giovanni doesn't think anyone goes on it. People come because they know people not because of an email address in the newsletter or website.

The chair also invited Giovanni and Margherita to speak about their experiences of coming into the parish as they are both relative newcomers. They said they felt welcome in Sacred Heart parish. Margherita explained that a bigger parish can be more welcoming than a small one as there are more opportunities to get involved. You can fall in love with Christ and the Christian faith by having an encounter with people, so knowing you can come to the parish and meet people is a gift from God. She's lived in London for 8 years and it's the first time she's come across such an open and welcoming community. Margherita asked how much parenting support the parish offers. Siobhan and others explained that the schools do this and offer a wide variety of workshops and other information. David reminded us that Eleanor is setting up a wellbeing hub for parents. Margherita asked if one school has a meeting like this whether parents from other schools could be invited? Action: to consider (Primi to add to next agenda)

Primi

4.0 Updates from the clergy

None at the moment

5.0 Family Mass feedback discussion

A letter had been shared with the PPC from a longstanding parishioner, now a grandparent, who commented that the focus of the family mass has shifted away from the children. The mass is now well over an hour, and, while the music is beautiful, the hymns are long and often not ones the children know and the sermons are getting more lengthy and are

often not directed at the children. This individual asked us to consider, since there are several other masses, if there were ways of making the 10am mass more accessible and inclusive for young families. Eleanor, not present at this meeting, had indicated she was supportive of having a discussion. The PPC agreed that more sermons should be directed to the children, the running time should be under an hour if possible and more young musicians and singers should be involved. Siobhan commented that before Covid the Sacred Heart School KS2 choir (7–11-year-olds) used to sing every half term, children from the school would read and homilies pitched towards the children. Siobhan has asked for the school to come back but this hasn't been welcomed as warmly as she'd hoped. The school would need help with suitable accompaniment for the children's choir. It's always been difficult to agree music for the mass. The children are trained to read the Gospel and then choose appropriate music but Siobhan acknowledged that it can be challenging to make sure it's appropriate. Fr John said he would be very happy for the school to be involved once every half term and the PPC agreed it would be a good thing to restore this practice, while noting that it is a family mass and not only for the children. The whole question is a bit broader and more complex than just getting the priest to do a homily for children, and not every priest can naturally do a good homily for children. We discussed whether it might be possible to cut the psalm and reduce the number of verses in the hymns to reduce the overall mass time. There are specific scriptures for children's liturgy which could be used.

Sr Dorothy pointed out that the smallest children get the most money at the collection. It was also noted that far too many children beyond first communion age go out to the children's liturgy, which is really intended for the younger children.

It was noted that there used to be an active liturgy group that included all the groups/musicians, but it faded so the music for each mass is chosen by each music group in isolation.

Action: Ruth to contact Rachel Marshall to introduce herself and get more thoughts. Ruth will also contact the person who made the original comments.

Ruth

6.0 Parish charitable initiatives

David reported on the following items:

Hillside Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel (SNP) – includes Edge Hill residents

- David has written to four parish schools in Hillside Ward (not SH primary) re safety concerns
- **6.30pm Thu 27 Apr** SHP invited to SNP meeting Wimbledon police station (David not available)
- **Sept 2023** enquiry re SHP hosting the first Hillside Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel AGM FOC?

Merton Citizens

- **Tue 14 Feb** met deputy Labour leader, Ellie Springer, who agreed to join local authority national network and to start a local network as a **'Council of Sanctuary'**
- **Wed 8 Mar** invited to meet LBM leader, Hannah Doody, for review meeting
- **Thu 23 Mar** presenting with Stephen Kinnock, shadow immigration, at Labour Party meeting
- **Sat 25 Mar** free all-day training on community organising at Morden Sal Army
- **Thu 30 Mar** invited to meet Siobhan McDonagh, Labour MP
- **Mon 17 Apr** leadership meeting on Zoom
- Mercedes and Andrew Brown interested in helping David; nothing from Damian Findlayson

Merton Winter Night Shelter - under Faith in Action

- guest testimonials invited for Edgeways
- **2023/24** to be managed by Nandita Nelson and Susie Wallat-Vago; need more overnight men
- **Sun 12 Mar TBC** review meeting in the lounge for SHP volunteers
- **6.00pm Mon 20 Mar** Faith in Action Open Evening, review and social for ALL venue volunteers

Care4Calais

- **Fri 3 Mar** clothes collected from three providers and delivered to Christ Church, Colliers Wood

Our five Ukranian Families

- welfare update requested from Fr Matthew and Alain de West - TBC
- David reported that he'd been giving the grandfather of one of the families odd jobs to get him out of the house and this seemed beneficial. We're not sure how many of the families have male family members living with them.

Defibrillator

- expected delivery by 31 March
- installation, training and maintenance details and costs still TBC by Bridget Hanley

Church Lobby Notices

- updated but awaiting confirmations of corrections before posting on church board.
- sent by Chris with parish annual report to Southwark diocese.

Churches Together

- **Fri 3 Mar** World Day of Prayer service at 10.30am at Martins Way Methodist Church
- **Fri 7 Apr** Good Friday annual Churches Together event, joint service and procession through RP

EHARA (Edge Hill Area Residents' Association)

- **Tue 7 Feb** met in parish lounge; SHP are members with £5 annual subscription due 010123
- Hillside Ward councillors Daniel Holden (Con) and Susie Hicks (Lib Dem) attended
- *requested Merton Citizens members, manifesto, newsletter, LBM meetings*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> minutes available on request, including status of planning applications, schools' traffic congestion, Lime Bikes dumped, Japanese knotweed, summer party (2022 at Beaumont Court) 8.00pm Tue 13 Jun DH invited to present SHP community work to next meeting 	
<p>7.0 AOB</p> <p>Mass for World Peace A parishioner has suggested a Mass for World Peace via Rachel, but it's not clear if they are envisaging a regular or a one-off event. We do pray for peace in all the bidding prayers. In January there's a week for world peace. The PPC wondered if they could be more specific about what they had in mind. Could it be part of exposition? A dedicated week? It would be hard to get people to come to it and it can't be a substitute for a Sunday mass. <u>Rachel to contact the individual and request more information</u></p> <p>Response to Turkey/Syria Earthquake R Challoner school sent a link. Jude asked whether we can do something as a parish through CAFOD. The Diocese has a schedule of second collections so it doesn't leave much space for other things. <u>Sr Dorothy agreed to look for a spare weekend that doesn't have a second collection.</u></p> <p>Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis - Day of Evangelising Formation There will be a day of formation for evangelisation here on 29th April with Thomas Quinlan of the St Joseph Evangelisation Centre in US but there's not been much communication from the Diocese. We're not clear if it's for anyone in the Diocese. We still need to understand more about what it involves – it's part of "Some Definite Service" which is the Diocesan programme to involve more lay people in evangelisation and connect parishes to each other. Maria Christopher is the evangelisation lead for the Deanery. We do know that each parish needs to coordinate their attendees. There is also the Discovery Course, which is a programme for potential evangelisers who will then cascade what they learn down to others in the parish. Action: <u>Eleanor is quite involved at a Diocesan level so she will feed back if there's anything that needs doing. Dorothy, Jude and Giovanni to discuss. It looks like there might be a clash between this and Katy's Songbirds concert on the same day – someone should check with Thelma.</u></p> <p>Reviving Edgeways Saturday 1st April – David intends to publish it online and should <u>speak to Barbara Visy and Thelma about distributing it through the same channels.</u></p>	<p>Rachel</p> <p>Sr Dorothy</p> <p>Eleanor Sr Dorothy, Jude, Giovanni</p> <p>David</p>

<p>Anne Chapelle's Gift A lady in the parish (Anne Chapelle) is moving. She received as a wedding present a painting by a priest from the London Oratory and wondered if the Parish would like it as a gift. The general policy has been not to accept art as we do get offered a lot of things. <u>Action</u> <u>Teresa to speak to the donor.</u></p>	<p>Theresa</p>
<p>8.0 Date of next meeting - Thursday 13 April at 8pm – note different date.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>9.0 Closing Prayer The meeting closed in prayer at 9.30pm.</p>	