

SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 13 December 2023 in the Parish Lounge
Minutes

<p>1. Welcome, opening prayer and apologies</p> <p>Giovanni opened the meeting in prayer at 8.07pm. Present were: Ruth Naylor (in the Chair), Rachel Purvis, Jude Mariadoss, Christopher Woodward (for the Finance Committee), Teresa Engley, Deacon Julian Burling, David Hurst, Primavera Moretti (taking minutes), Fr Jackson Sebastian, Giovanni Peruzzo</p> <p>Apologies were received from Max Toone, Siobhan Heffron, Sr Dorothy Perrott, Maria Christopher, Fr Matthew Donnelly, Fr David Gibbons</p>	<p>Ruth</p>
<p>2. Minutes of last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Young adults page of website is now up to date and will direct people to join the WhatsApp group. Ruth has had two enquiries. There was a discussion about whether the group should be set up to enable members to be anonymous to safeguard their privacy. Ruth pointed out that people can block nuisance calls if such a thing unfortunately were to happen. ● Ruth’s flyer. Ruth is going to arrange a print run so they can be available at the back of church and will put it on the noticeboard. Chris will arrange for it to be sent out to new parishioners. ● Social committee. Ruth has been taking expressions of interest (there haven’t been many). Ruth also has a few people she wants to ask for advice (rather than people who could join the committee). The people doing the Christmas lunch might be the kind of people who’d be happy to help with similar events. David commented he’d only had one volunteer to help with editing and one to help with designing Edgeways (as it happens, they were great and really helpful, but it would have been nice to have more people come forward). ● Come Home for Christmas. Only Julian has had a copy of the leaflet through his door; no one else has. Teresa expressed concern about how the distribution might be being done by West London Promotions (we have to trust that the distributors are not dumping them). David said he would go in person tomorrow morning to ask for an update. Jude said we could put leaflets/flyers in school bags. It’s a bit late to do that this year, but it’s something to think about for next year and we’ve also used scouts/guides in the past. Royal Mail are the only ones that can distribute to any address at any time but would be very expensive. Primi said that another parish did bundles for each street and people would just pick up the one for their street. This was discussed as an option at the October meeting and it could 	<p>Ruth/Chris</p> <p>Ruth</p>

<p>be reconsidered next year. Action: Primi make notes for next year</p>	Primi
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Singing at family mass. new date for Rachel to come in the new year. Fr David has made some changes. Priests had a discussion – Fr Jackson suggested maybe a meeting of the choir leaders to ensure the singing is not just a choir activity and is appropriate to the season. Hymns only from our hymnals. It's worth considering whether we should project the words but the building is probably too big for this to be practical. 	Ruth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Edgeways. The PPC thanked David for the work he and Ann Curtiss had done to get the first issue out. It will come out on the first Friday of every month electronic only with a print run for those who can't get it any other way. David will get prices and look into options for subscriptions for those people. We used to print 1200 copies at a cost of £979 which was paid for by advertising – it broke even every month. Fr Jackson expressed from the priests how much they enjoyed the issue especially as it gave them the opportunity to get to know more about some of the parishioners. 	David
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Some Definite Service will be added to agendas every 3 months. Jude and Maria attended a whole Diocese review meeting with Bishop John on Zoom. Many parishes have submitted their plans. We're not at that stage due to the inter-regnum. It was interesting to hear other parishes' plans. We're not very far behind because we're already doing a lot of things, we just need to put them into a plan. Deacon Julian mentioned the old parish plan; Ruth has an electronic version and will send to Jude, Giovanni and Maria. Chris pointed out that people in the parish need to be involved. Last time we did a parish plan, there were 6 or 8 groups working groups working on different aspects. Primi mentioned that charity trustees tend to have specific areas of responsibility and wondered if this was something we could look at for the PPC. 	Ruth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fr David to arrange for Small Groups Coordinator from Sevenoaks to speak to us 	Fr David
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coffee after family mass – David H will follow up with Sean Jones 	David H
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fr Jackson asked regarding Youth Provision. Primi to add to agenda for April to ask the new youth minister Rob Hitchcock to come and talk to us and look at provision for youth activities including uniformed organisations. Are youth clubs in the remit of this person? Giovanni pointed out this is part of formation so he should make sure he speaks to Robert when he arrives. Ruth will invite Robert to the meetings. 	Primi Giovanni Ruth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notice board – one has been updated but the other (old one) needs to be re-covered and reformatted / refurbishing. Action? 	

<p>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>Ruth</p>
<p>3. Parish Community initiatives</p> <p>Ruth and Giovanni came to the Merton Citizens event in St Barnabus Parish Church in Clapham on November 22nd. The objective was to get decision makers (including counsellors, senior execs of NHS trusts) to get to make commitments on the living wage, housing, etc. Ruth was very impressed and found it inspiring to be there. The meeting was well run and structured, very inclusive and ran strictly to time. Seeing public figures make public commitments to targets around social issues felt empowering. There were a number of religious and secular organisations there. Giovanni felt it was a very good link between decision makers in the Merton Council departments (housing, social services etc.) and religious groups. After 4 years of hard work, the leaders now want <i>us</i> to talk to <i>them</i>. David wants to prove value for the £2,100 subscription which we pay. David would like some help with keeping this initiative running in the parish.</p>	
<p>4. Encouraging generosity</p> <p>Primi, a professional fundraising consultant, spoke at length about the spirituality of generosity and how enabling giving and service in the parish is an act of spiritual mercy in which those seeking to be more Christ-like are accompanied on a journey of giving which nurtures their generosity and opens their hearts to giving more of themselves.</p> <p>A discussion ensued about how we can encourage the giving of both money and time and how we can focus this and engage with it. How do we engage with people and make them feel part of something, so they <i>want</i> to give rather than asking/demanding it of them. This debate strikes at the very heart of our parish community and how we think of it.</p> <p>Julian does a sermon in Lent in which he talks about stewardship and invites people to think of wealth as being “God’s money”. Ruth spoke about her experiences as a fundraiser at the National Theatre where all donors are invited to belong and to understand the difference that their gifts make.</p> <p>On a practical level, the parish has been pushing to move to electronic/ online payments since Covid. Primi pointed out that because of this very few people put anything in the basket and the</p>	

<p>symbolism of offering is thus lost. She asked if we could use some kind of tokens to symbolise a gift but Teresa pointed out that it would be annoying to have to separate them out. Chris asked if it is really giving? Fr Jackson pointed out that in many parishes there is a combined procession with children bringing up the money and the gifts. The priest comes forward to take the gifts, receiving the offertory and showing the spiritual connection between both these kinds of giving. But here it's done separately, and the money disappears into the sacristy, so the symbolism is lost.</p> <p>What's the money for? Most people don't understand what it's used for. It's a lot more than lighting. Most parishioners probably don't know about some of the charitable initiatives we support.</p> <p>As for how much people should give, we should invite people to consider how much they spend to go to cinema or for dinner. We could have an article in Edgeways about it.</p> <p>We could pass the basket up and down the row rather than the person with the basket taking it back as they often miss people. Teresa has often seen people having to chase the basket.</p> <p>If everyone had a token it would take longer and no one would get missed but we would need more people to separate them out.</p> <p>Chris pointed out that at the offertory we could be thinking about what we're offering God for the next week. We agreed this is a nice thought and more could be said about this</p> <p>Jude asked if the electronic readers go around with the baskets? But this does take time. Ruth has looked at WHERE we're collecting money and suggests we include a message at each station including the box for the poor at the back and the SVP box, which currently aren't very visible. Action: Ruth</p> <p>Fr Jackson suggested that if people have intentions they can bring an envelope and put it at the offertory and theses are then offered at the altar and the priests will then pray for these intentions. Action: Ruth to speak to Fr David, also about taking the baskets up to the altar. To discuss at next meeting – Primi to add to agenda.</p>	<p>Ruth/Primi</p>
<p>5. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Night Shelter are advertising for a part-time paid project assistant. Aisling is the paid coordinator of the groups and she needs help. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● “Be Well Hub” are looking for a coordinator. It used to be Eleanor)	
6. Date of Next Meeting Thursday 4 th January 2024 at 8pm in Parish Lounge. All other meetings will be on the first Thursday of the month.	
7. CLOSING PRAYER The meeting closed in prayer at 9.28pm	