

SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 7th March 2024 in the YOUTH ROOM –
MINUTES

<p>1. Welcome, opening prayer and apologies Present were: Ruth Naylor (Chair), Sr Dorothy Perrott, Maria Christopher, Teresa Engley, David Hurst, Jude Mariadoss, Primavera Moretti (taking minutes), Fr Matthew Donnelly, Giovanni Peruzzo, Fr Jackson Sebastian and Rob Hitchcock (Faith Minister). Apologies were received from: Rachel Purvis, Siobhan Heffron, Christopher Woodward (for the Finance Committee), Annette Campbell-Black, Max Toone and Deacon Julian Burling. We were joined by Bob Rathbone (Music Director) and Wendy Tansey (Edge Hill Players).</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of last meeting Status on actions which will not be picked up in agenda items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ruth’s flyer printing. Action: Ruth to update to reflect the coffee after Family Mass ● Edgeways subscriptions/print copies. David explained that it’s ending up too long (53 pages!) Action: Primi add to agenda for next time. ● Tea after family mass has been announced in the newsletter and is particularly popular when it coincides with first communion classes. The PPC is very grateful to Sean, Penny, Sophie and Agata. It can be moved to the lower hall if likely to be too crowded because of communion classes. ● Families taking up the offertory will happen in the weeks that children don’t go out for children’s liturgy and sometimes people without children will be asked. Action: Sr Dorothy ● Everyone has been asked to contribute to comments on Fundraising/messaging Audit (link circulated with agenda). There had been some issues with the format. Action: Ruth will recirculate it in an accessible format and remind everyone to do it.- ● Primi and Ruth to discuss DofE / Volunteering. Action: pick up again ● Company that assists in letting church halls (Chris and Max). They’re called Praetorium. They wanted to take total control of letting the halls but we have all kinds of things that use the halls free so it was a non-starter [amended to ‘there are some matters that need to be discussed around how much control they will or won’t have if we work with them’ by meeting held on April 4th] <p>Prayers for the homeless in Bidding Prayers appear in different formats.</p> <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>PRIMI</p> <p>SR DOROTHY</p> <p>RUTH RUTH/PRIMI</p>

3. Parish Groups

We were joined by Bob Rathbone (Music Director) and Wendy Tansey (Edge Hill Players). Edge Hill Players started in late 70s. They do a panto each year (Jan/Feb). This year there were 25 primary, 38 secondary school children involved (which presents a dressing room challenge and a requirement for lots of chaperones). They do proper musicals with a complete orchestra of young professionals in the autumn – this year it will be Kiss me Kate on Sept 13,14,15. They pride themselves on being absolutely inclusive (no one is turned away there were 97 people this year). It's a community theatre; that's why they don't charge a fee for belonging. They have improved the stage – the crew sanded it during lockdown. New lighting was donated by a member. They are careful on safeguarding and have lots of DBS-checked people. Terry Marsh directs and writes the pantos with Wendy. Challenges: Storage – they've got lots of scenery and there's a very old grand piano at the side of the stage. WIDFAS (Wimbledon Decorative and Fine Arts Society) have to have a screen for their talks and that also takes up space and there was an accident once when it fell down. Wendy asked whether we can invest in a push-button one like the other one. Rob says it would be helpful for him to have a better one [check this is what he said]

Action: Rob discuss with George and get a quote if appropriate. They have costume storage in lower hall cupboards. They make a contribution to the Parish of proceeds of ticket sales. The PPC wanted to offer congratulations on the last panto. They need people to come to the shows and buy tickets.

We asked about participation beyond the parish. Wendy said it's mostly people who have some connection and people bring friends to the show. There is a Committee. They are asking for parents who sew to help with costumes.

Bob Rathbone, Director of Music, who is very involved with the Edge Hill Players commented that he is proud of what we do as a community. He went on to explain about his work in the parish. He had been at College since 1980 and started in the Parish in 1996 and took over from Martin Parry as Director of Music when he left. He runs the Sacred Heart Chorus which has a concert on June 22nd (Missa de Gloria by Puccini, Motetto per San Paulino and Beethoven 3rd Piano Concerto). This started as part of the BT Voices for Hospices movement. (which involved simultaneous performances of particular pieces starting in 1997 with Handel's Messiah). £30k+ donated to charity. Proceeds from Sacred Heart Chorus concerts usually includes parish and other charities. Fewer people are coming now than used to (it used to be standing room only). PPC to keep in mind any support that could be offered. More people means more donations. They need people to help with stewarding, including serving refreshments in interval, and stewarding will become more important, especially with the new parking set-up. He also does a workshop before (he chats about the composer and the music and teaches a few movements from it). Saturday 23rd March in the lounge. www.sacredheartmusic.co.uk. **Action: David to put a save the date in Edgeways in May and appeal for help for June. And the June one could include preview.**

Bob went on to talk about music at the masses. He has a good team with the musicians from family mass (Rachel, John, Giles) and 5pm (Bruce). The three groups work in different ways to different ends. He is considering a parish psalm setting book when the lectionary starts in Advent 2024.

ROB

DAVID

<p>5pm group use “Song Select” (part of CCLI) which means their little white book needs updating and they’ve asked if they can get a rolling version of this. They’ve been doing some loose sheets to supplement it, which leads to litter and waste so we asked if it could be done on smartphones. Primavera commented that sometimes the ‘samba beats’ can be, in her view, a bit over the top. Bob explained they are electronically generated and it’s a particular way of doing things that does appeal to some people.</p> <p>Recently the Saturday 6.30pm mass has been embellished by the Porter Family (Miranda, Felicity and Marcus) and Sr Elizabeth. The PPC agreed this approach was gentle and prayerful and appropriate for a mass which had previously had no music.</p> <p>12 o’clock mass – Latin solemn on 1st Sunday of each month or English mass with hymns. Dom Gregory Murray Gloria was introduced and people seem to be really joining in. Lourdes Gloria gets even more response. There are 20+ in the choir now, all very committed.</p> <p>Bob and David Gammie also play for funerals and weddings.</p> <p>PPC thanked both Wendy and Bob for their work in the Parish and contributions to the meeting.</p> <p>Katy’s songbirds will also be doing concerts in May and at Christmas.</p>	
<p>4. Updates from the clergy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Safeguarding team is now up and running. They might want to recruit a fourth person, but it’s going well. ● The new car parking system has been a bit of a problem with some of the tablets not working properly but does seem to have stopped the unauthorised parking. ● There will be a meeting of the Parish Pastoral Team soon. ● Transfer from Society of Jesus; Keith McMillan SJ their treasurer says they’re waiting for the Diocese and they say they’re waiting for the SJ and so the saga continues. ● Fr Michael’s Lent talk was attended by 60 people. 	
<p>4. Parish Community initiatives</p> <p>David Hurst reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Merton Citizens – 25th April 6pm Q&A with London Mayoral Candidates 6pm Methodist Central Hall ● Environment group needs a leader ● Night shelter has gone well. Last one of the season tonight. 	
<p>5. Parish Social Life</p> <p>A generic events programme is important to avoid cliques and to get people involved in the parish in a low key way, so they might in future get more involved by volunteering.</p> <p>(a) PANCAKE PARTY DEBRIEF</p> <p>There was a really good mixture of people attending. The YA community were really helpful and proactive. We accepted donations, but it was suggested that if we had cheap tickets (including discounted family tickets) this would encourage people (especially families to come) as they’d be more committed.</p> <p>(b) NEW PARISHIONERS’ WELCOME EVENT is on 17th March at 3pm, which would be St Patrick’s Day if it wasn’t a Sunday. Ruth anticipates about 25 new parishioners coming. Annette offered to provide refreshments, including soda bread. The PPC are encouraged to come. Action: PPC RSVP to Ruth. Literature from groups will be available.</p>	<p>RUTH</p> <p>RUTH</p>

<p>(c) FAMILY MASS CAFÉ Discussed above</p> <p>(d) FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART – 9th June Will be a lunchtime garden-party type thing with games etc. A contingent of the Italian community have agreed to provide the food. Action: Ruth will put out a doodle poll regarding a preliminary meeting of everyone who might be interested. Ideally this would be in person (but it could be on Zoom or in person, with people zooming people in if we can find a suitable space with the right tech which will allow this). Primi reported that the uniformed organisations were unable to help due to prior commitments and asked if the primary school could organise the games instead? Uniformed groups to be invited to a PPC meeting. – Action: Primi to invite.</p> <p>(e) YOUTH 2000 A Youth 2000 event is planned on 11th May. There's a first communion that day so there could be parking/circulation issues, but the flyer has now been circulated.</p>	PRIMI
<p>6. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WEBSITE WORKING GROUP Chris was approached by the company that run our website for a chat about how we're doing it currently. We need to involve Paul Davis (webmaster). Action: Ruth to set up meeting of those interested. ● PARISH DIRECTORY It's online at the moment. Chris has been updating it and it has been circulated for all to check. Should we print it or not? Action: to pick up next time with Chris. Primi add to agenda. ● COMMENT FROM PARISHIONER ABOUT NOISY ROSARY PRAYING A parishioner commented that as of recently, the Rosary was being prayed before mass with a microphone and that this was rather loud and distracting. It was explained that the microphone was used in order for it to be audible on live stream since last October. A microphone is not used in the evening. This will be publicised so more people can join in with the live stream. The Rosary finished in good time for mass. Action: Ruth to let the enquirer know and ensure a message is put in the newsletter. ● WALK AND TALK GROUP David reported that the Walk and Talk group will walk to Sacred Heart and have a talk on the history of the parish on 16th March. 	RUTH PRIMI RUTH
<p>7. Date of Next Meeting Thursday 4th April 2024 at 8pm in Parish Lounge</p>	
<p>8. CLOSING PRAYER The meeting closed in prayer at 9.45pm</p>	