

**SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in the LOUNGE**

<p><b>1. Welcome, opening prayer and apologies</b>          Maria opened the meeting in prayer at 8.06pm.          Present were: Ruth Naylor (Chair), Rachel Purvis, Jude Mariadoss, Christopher Woodward (for the Finance Committee), Maria Christopher, Teresa Engley, Primavera Moretti (taking minutes), Fr Matthew Donnelly, Giovanni Peruzzo, Rob Hitchcock (Faith Minister), Fr David Gibbons.          Apologies were received from Max Toone, Siobhan Heffron, Fr Jackson, David Hurst, Deacon Julian, Sr Dorothy Perrott, Annette Campbell-Black.</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of last meeting</b>          Chris commented on the minute about Praetorium. We haven't written them off yet; there are some matters that need to be discussed around how much control they will or won't have if we work with them. Chris also mentioned that a Montessori group are interested in setting up a full-time nursery which is all to be discussed. With this amendment, the minutes were signed off by the chair. They will be uploaded to the website shortly.          Status on actions which will not be picked up in agenda items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Primi and Ruth to discuss DofE / Volunteering – <b>Action: Primi and Ruth still to discuss</b></li> <li>● Quote for new screen – the screen was provided by WIDFAS but it belongs to the parish. It's very unwieldy. Rob has spoken to George – who is on the case. <b>Action: Rob</b></li> </ul>	<p>Ruth/Primi          Rob</p>

**3. Youth Provision**

Giovanni and Rob offered their thoughts. Setting up the sacramental formation with some urgency, was the priority for Rob when he arrived. It would be good to have some Youth Provision set up for the new academic year but we need volunteers, which is a stumbling block for a lot of things in the parish. It is best to involve people by word of mouth, rather than impersonal appeals.

Youth provision would be for 8 to 18 year-olds, tailored to what each age group needs. There was a youth group last year and it would be nice to revive that but it takes time to build up a group.

Primi asked if there was room for peer-to-peer ministry (where, say, sixth formers would run a group for year 7-9s)? There could also be support for parents of the children of that age. It would be good to consult with the children and their families and ask the children what they think would work for them, which could happen in an open forum (Rob didn't think a questionnaire would work).

Giovanni suggests we should talk to some of the groups in the parish which are more active and tap into the parish circles that exist. Rob is fostering a relationship with the YA house as they already help in the sacramental formation.

It would be good to connect with the uniformed organisations. Primi has already started trying to get them involved, with not much success. Rob will also make an effort to do this. Primi to tell them about Sacred Heart Feast next year (Sunday after Sacred Heart 2025). **Action: Rob and Primi**

Fr David says that there will be a whole-District Scout Parade on the Sunday after St George's Day.

Youth 2000 is having an event on 11<sup>th</sup> May and it would be good to establish this parish as a venue for similar events. Tickets are now on sale. Max and Sarah will be talking at the masses.

Rob and Primi

**4. Some Definite Service**

Jude explained that the event in Croydon which the team attended a while back was very fruitful and it would be helpful to bring the learnings from this into some form that could be shared with the PPC so we can see where to spend time and effort. We're already doing a lot of the things we should be, but need to put them in a plan which can be shared with the Diocese and the Parish. It needs to be a living document. Maria has sent a link to a new event 20<sup>th</sup> April "Expo for Evangelisation" and it was thought good to have more representation from the parish. We would aim to have a document ready for discussion at the next PPC meeting. Primi agreed to help create the document from the template. Action: Primi organise a time to get together and work on it.

Ruth received a comment from a parishioner expressing desire for more focus on evangelisation and formation in the parish which very much ties in with what we are discussing.

Primi

## 5. Communications

- Parish Directory

Chris has been working on the list / spreadsheet, which is now up to date but we're wondering how best to share it. Would be useful to have as a printable booklet. We don't want too many of them because they're always out of date. Can be published on the website but it's effectively a reflection of the website anyway. It was on the noticeboard but not very useful because it was hard to read it there. Ruth said that a PDF with clickable links would be most useful. Would also be good to have an umbrella page where it was possible to click on the links. We need someone who can go through the website on a regular basis and keep it up to date. Primi commented that the group leaders who are expected to keep their page up to date may not have the time or skills to do it – sometimes they ask Chris to update it for them and he's happy to do that.

**Action – Chris to consider further how to make this information available on the website.**

- Social Media

Ruth reminded us what we have online. Ruth set up the Facebook page in 2020. She is the owner of the page but there are other administrators. There is also a Parish Facebook Group, "Sacred Heart Wimbledon Parishioners" on Facebook. Anyone can join (have to be approved by admin) and anyone in the group can comment so it is more dialogue/conversational and is just for parishioners to share updates, but the page is more official and items on there can be shared with the group. Alison Lobo administers the group and Ruth and the page are also administrators (and probably Paul Davis). In the last month there has been 1 new like, 2 new follows. 204 followers in total. Not actively doing anything to promote the page or advertising. According to the Facebook stats, we publish more content than similar organisations. Michelle on the Finance Committee is using a scheduling tool to post content (from the newsletter). The group has 420 members.

We also have an X (Twitter) account with 235 followers (more than the Facebook page). Twitter allows more interaction between organisations e.g. we comment on other parishes and vice versa.

Ruth will post her slides on the website with the minutes. **Action: Ruth.**

There are opportunities for growth. We're not engaging more proactively such as commenting on other people's posts (we don't have time). We could use the events function (which can be a double-edged sword if you don't have many people saying they're coming, then it can be off putting for people). We could have more user-generated content. Both platforms can be used for fundraising (although Primi pointed out we'd have to know people a lot better and be more interactive before we'd be ready to jump off with this). You can also do live broadcasts.

At the moment we're in a maintenance period and have something which fills the void. It's much tidier now. A while back there were lots of pages which Facebook had set up automatically, but Ruth found these and tried to eliminate them. People who are signed up to it will get updates/notifications (which they might not see in the newsletter).

Chris

<p>Sacred Heart School are good on social media. Fr Matthew asked if we could use it to showcase the talks e.g. Newman group. It would be great to do podcasts or a video of this kind of content. Some parishes put recordings of the masses, also concerts etc. on their website. Alison posts the link to the Newsletter on the Facebook Group each group. Michelle uses the content of the newsletter to create little Facebook and Twitter posts through the week. Rob said we could consider offering a tweet size Thought for the Day. Ruth said that Fr Joe used to do this sometimes on the group. We could encourage people to make their own posts on the group (although this would need watching/moderating). One of the admins could start it off. "In the homily today I learned...", and we could use it as a call for volunteers as they might be slightly warmer than other parishioners as they have actually signed up. We need to change the Twitter logo to X on the website. <b>Action: Ruth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website working group</li> </ul> <p>Ruth explained that Adam, the CEO of website hosting company wants to have a daytime Zoom meeting with Ruth, Chris and Jude (and maybe Michelle and Paul) about how we can make the website format a bit more up to date.</p> <p><b>Action: Ruth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updating Ruth's flyer</li> </ul> <p>Now updated with coffee after 10am mass. Thelma has printed them for the back of the church.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundraising/messaging Audit</li> </ul> <p>Ruth reminded everyone that it would be good to refresh the wording for fundraising. She had sent round a document on which members of the PPC could comment. Having received some comments, Ruth will now update the posters etc. <b>Action: Ruth</b> There were also some longer-term things e.g. good giving stories for Edgeways which can be explored as they arise.</p>	
<p><b>6. Updates from the clergy</b></p> <p>The Parish Team had a meeting to discuss big-picture issues in the parish, which went well.</p> <p>Holy Week and Easter all went very well and the liturgies were pretty full. Some Definite Service Blog on the Diocesan website has a report of our Easter Vigil. Throughout the Diocese The Rite of Election had the highest numbers for years. We had 12 adult confirmations (including 5 baptisms). The RCIA group keep meeting on Monday evenings until end of June and resume in September. Some follow up sessions are being considered. Could someone from PPC go on a Monday evening to talk to them? <b>Action: All</b></p>	ALL
<p><b>7. EVENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SACRED HEART FEAST</li> </ul> <p>There will be a meeting in person in the Lounge at 7.45pm on 11<sup>th</sup> April for anyone interested in helping.</p> <p>Siobhan couldn't make it to the meeting but had asked via WhatsApps about timings for the 9 June. The school's two choirs will happily sing/perform a little set and she wanted to put this out to staff and parents with timings (not least as she herself is likely to be on maternity leave around then). <b>Action: Ruth</b></p> <p>Primi asked if the Edge Hill Players could also do a turn. After the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> Ruth will put something in the newsletter she is looking for baseline commitments at this stage so we know what we can offer. Ruth said she'd put</p>	RUTH

<p>something in the newsletter about the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> and Alison has emailed the volunteers list. Chris will email them all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● New Parishioners' Tea</li> </ul> <p>The PPC offered a vote of thanks to Annette for wonderful catering – 25 people replied and about that many came (although it wasn't all the same people!). Fr David thinks this was a good format especially as it was not too onerous to put it on and people tend to be free at that time. The low average age was good to see – there were a lot of young adults and families. Quite a few people came on their own. We agreed we should keep doing it once a term. The list we emailed was a big list as there was a bit of a backlog but we could email some of the ones who missed out this time, including the people who replied who would have liked to have come but couldn't make that day. Chris said there was a really good atmosphere. Ruth found people who wanted to get more involved including someone who might come to the Sacred Heart Feast volunteers' meeting. Some were feeling their way, not ready to get involved yet but seemed like they might get involved later. Fr Matthew spoke to two S American ladies who have started a Spanish prayer group at a flat in 66 Worple Road. There were 8 people there last Wednesday at 7.30pm. Does this show that small groups can happen organically? Fr Matthew has to ask them to put something in the newsletter and there's a note in the entrance to the church. We need to set dates for the next New Parishioners Tea in late September followed by Feb 2025 and May 2025. <b>Action: Ruth to liaise with Thelma – and Annette</b></p>	<p>RUTH</p>
<p><b>8. AOB</b>  <b>Date of next meeting</b>  Merton Citizens have their London Mayoral Assembly meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April at Methodist Central Hall.  We discussed the Archbishop's Letter about Assisted Suicide.</p>	<p>Ruth</p>
<p><b>9. Date of Next Meeting</b>  Thursday 23rd May 2024 at 8pm in Parish Lounge  Thur 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 8pm in Parish Lounge  Both dates will be offered to the small groups coordinator from Sevenoaks (with a view to getting a coordinator in place here in time for the start of the new academic year).</p>	
<p><b>10. CLOSING PRAYER</b>  Maria</p>	