

**SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday 3 October 2024 in the LOUNGE**  
**MINUTES**

### 1. Welcome, opening prayer and apologies

The meeting was opened in prayer by Rachel at 8.05pm.

Present were Ruth Naylor (Chair), Rachel Purvis, Jude Mariadoss, Christopher Woodward (for the Finance Committee), Maria Christopher, Teresa Engley, Julian Burling, David Hurst, Primavera Moretti (taking minutes), Fr Jackson Sebastian, Canon David Gibbons, Rob Hitchcock (Faith Minister). Apologies were received from Giovanni Peruzzo, Max Toone, Annette Campbell-Black, Siobhan Heffron, Sr Dorothy Perrott and Fr David Hunter.

### 2. Minutes of last meeting

Status on actions which will not be picked up in agenda items:

- Uniformed groups - Church Parades (Canon David) – Thelma has been in touch with them but has not yet had a response. **Action: Thelma to follow up**
  - Some Definite Service (Rob). This is in progress. The Diocese have employed someone to journey with parishes who have put plans together so Rob will reach out to them. **Action: Rob [leave on agenda for next time]**
  - PPC mini retreat (David H) – **Action: David H to look at 15th February (with 1<sup>st</sup> March as a backup)** It was noted that Julian will not be available on 15<sup>th</sup> February.
  - Confession Guides (Rob) – Rob has done some cards which will be put at the back of the church. **Action: Rob**
  - Website – SEO (Ruth) – Ruth has spoken to Adam, the CEO of the website provider and he's confirmed that their team can do the clean-up free of charge. Ruth has asked him for a timeline. Chris has approached parish groups to let them know this is happening. Google puts the church as closed on a Sunday. Ruth has already tried to get this amended but will keep trying. We also have a Facebook page. **Action: Ruth**
- 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. **Action: Ruth**

### 3. Small groups

We need leaders to come forward to run a pilot scheme. Jude is currently talking to one interested party, along with Max. Canon David will speak to them both. It would be good to start in earnest for Lent. The Bible Study group and various other pre-existing small groups could be encouraged to take part in order to get good group sizes and a bit of momentum. **Action: Canon David to liaise with Jude and Max.**

### 4. Updates from Canon David

Marlon Oliviera is a seminarian who has done a year at Valladolid and is now in his second year at Allen hall. He was here last Sunday and he's meant to come every Sunday during term time and will get involved in the first communion programme.

## **5. Updates from Rob**

### First Communion

90 children signed up from the parish (not neighbouring parishes) and/or Sacred Heart Primary School.

Rob is looking to use new material from Ascension Press – Received and Renewed – course for confession and course for eucharist. We may be the only parish using this material. Rob's had meetings with the organisation who have been helpful as it's new to them too. There's a brand-new catechetical team (made up mostly of men), mostly fathers of children who have already done first communion or are doing it now, who came forward in response to a note in the newsletter. They will commit to helping each week, facilitating break-out discussions in small groups. They can attend diocesan study courses if they want to. Parents are invited to submit their own questions and these are addressed in the sessions. Applications open in November. Formation starts in January.

### Confirmation

70-80 candidates. Last year Rob had to pull materials together from various places, this year he's looking to find something new.

### Youth Group

Jude and Rob have met to discuss reviving the youth group. They're working to bring it back next month. Rob is getting posters etc. made. Will meet on a Sunday before 8pm mass. "Youth" is post-confirmation.

### Ministry in Schools

Rob is working with Sacred Heart, the College, Donhead and Ursuline, liaising with the chaplains. They are creating another youth group specifically aimed at their students - boys and girls from Year 8 who take their faith seriously - who will be invited to join. It will take place in one of the schools, after school. Growing in Faith Together (GIFT). They're pulling their own resources together for this.

Rob has also been invited to sit with Merton and Sutton Deanery schools RE leads – sharing ideas on what works in the classroom. There will be a half-day retreat for the chaplaincy teams.

David Hurst added that Dominic at Ursuline has now found editorial volunteers for Edgeways. Fr Andrew Coy, the Papal Nuncio's secretary will be interviewed. Sacred Heart Primary has a mission to build a relationship with the parish. Met deputy head Tanya Bastian (Acting Deputy Head) and James Bush. Headmistress Lorraine Dolan-Walsh will be speaking from the pulpit.

## **6. Encouraging volunteering and PPC membership**

Preparation for 'Volunteering Day' on 12/13 October was discussed. Small groups should send Chris info on the skills they're looking for in volunteers. Ruth would like a short talk at the end of each mass to invite people to speak to the group's representatives waiting outside church.

## 7. Update from the Finance committee

- a) Praetorium (hall letting company). Chris explained that we won't be using Praetorium because we'd have to link into their financial systems and booking systems which would mean that all our bookings would have to go through them but we will be looking at alternative marketing possibilities which would use the capability of our website for bookings. The upper hall is not much used on weekdays.
- b) New Upper Hall screen. There was a plea from Edge Hill Players to replace it but it would be very expensive. Rob also uses it and says it's very difficult to use, being large and having a manual pulley. Rob has to do it himself because it's awkward. The Wimbledon Arts Society do need a screen that size and originally provided it. **Action: Chris to initiate a discussion with them on replacing it with something more manageable.**
- c) Solar Panels – the scheme (previously discussed) is now with the planners.
- d) Mental Health Group – Chris has not heard further from the lady who wanted to set up the group.
- e) Sound insulation for the Lower Hall – the finance committee have not identified it as a priority in relation to all the other things we're committed to.

David Hurst commented that there's meant to be a loop and sound system for the Lounge but it doesn't seem to work.

## 8. Parish Community initiatives

### Merton Citizens

- Fr David Hunter met the Merton Citizens leaders.
- 7.00pm Thursday 14 November: next leaders' meeting at Salvation Army Morden – interested observers are very welcome!
- Borough of Sanctuary LBM is looking to Merton Citizens to implement the council agreed Merton Borough of Sanctuary

### Be Well Hub

- 14 'Be Well Hubs' across LBM are doing good work; as Anthony Lee now offers mental health counselling, there is no need to revive the parish 'Be Well Hub'

### Environment Group

- 11.00am Sunday 17 November: JP de Quay and David will host a meeting to re-launch the parish Environment Group
- 7.00pm Wednesday 23 October: Newman Circle JP will host the film 'The Letter - a Laudato Si' message for our earth' with Pope Francis

## 9. Parish Social Life

### (a) Fr Matthew's leaving do 27<sup>th</sup> September.

It was a successful evening and Fr Matthew enjoyed it. Sarah from no.9 organised it. Annette did the catering. **Action: Ruth to send Sarah a formal thank you.**

### (b) Christmas Lunch

Fr David reported that it is all in hand.

### (c) New parishioners' welcome tea – 29 September

Thank you to everyone who came and brought snacks. Conversations with someone who wants to help with the newsletter volunteer. Doing some branding – for posters, website etc. The key thing is that everyone who came felt welcomed. A wide range of people. Giovanni had to buy cake – would be better to make sure that there was some food in advance and not just relying on people bringing things. It probably needs a bit more pre-planning in terms of who does what. **Action: Ruth to fix/check date in February**

### (d) Social/Halls Committee

Ruth has spoken to John Paul following his report last month. His list of suggestions could form the basis of a list of aims for the group. There was an events committee a while back. It would be useful to have a paper explaining the vision of such a group. The idea is to get some feedback from people who use the halls regularly – what do people use / need. This will make it smoother to organise parish events. George and Thelma to be involved. One of the aims is to make communications smoother so everyone knows what they need to speak to for what. Canon David explained we need a halls committee to run the halls. If a potential user is only available outside office hours, someone on the committee needs to be able to show them round. Thelma and George work office hours. The group needs to be more than just information sharing. Ruth did a risk assessment which can now be shared and used as a template. JP is interested in looking at what the vision might be for the parish use of the hall. One of the things that came up was the work space idea and the hire price they've been quoted would make that unfeasible. Is the hall there to raise funds or to provide something for the parish community? The parish pays for the hall – heating, lighting insurance and damage and it must at least cover its costs. There needs to be a clearer policy on what constitutes a parish let. **Action: the parish office and the finance committee to clarify this. Ruth will forward the aims (based on JP's suggestions) to Canon David**

## 8. AOB

The newsletter passed over to Matteo. **Action: Formal thank you to Barbara who has edited the newsletter for many years, with a bunch of flowers from PPC. Ruth.**

Max is coordinating On The Edge for YA Catholics. The next event is another dance.

Having trouble sending out the newsletter – doesn't go through to Btinternet.com accounts – our ISP are in contact with BT about this. Teresa is with BT and is getting it via Facebook. **Action: An item in the newsletter pointing this out and announcement from pulpit – parish office**

Teresa wanted to thank Canon David, Fr Sebastian and Fr David for the Day with Mary. Teresa had not been before and was really moved by the day's events. It was a wonderful day.

The meeting closed in prayer at 21.30

## 9. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November in the Lounge

