

Minutes of PPC Meeting, 21/02/2024, 7.00pm

Present: Fr M, BT (chair), ML (mins), SB, TM, Maia Crayford (youth guest)

Opening Prayer led by Fr M

Apologies: MO'D, KS

Welcome and thanks to Maia Crayford for coming to the meeting this evening. BT gave Maia a brief summary of the role of the PPC and asked Maia if she could outline ideas on how to engage younger parishioners.

Maia was very positive about the role of servers at Mass - a great number now at the Saturday Vigil Mass, which is her regular Mass. Her opinion was that young people are more than willing to participate in the roles of server and reader at Mass; however, transport to Mass could be an issue for some, if parents were not able to commit to attending a particular Mass regularly. St. Anne's, which is a larger parish (and more compact) than St Michael's runs a youth group - perhaps we should explore the possibility of encouraging young members of St Michael's to attend that group and adults from here to support the running of the group at St Anne's? Maya was also receptive to the idea of a youth Mass. Deborah West has previously mentioned the possibility of a youth Mass. BT will contact Deborah to see if this can be pursued. Engagement of young people who play musical instruments to be considered - liaise with choir etc. Fr M also raised the idea of young people undertaking an activity to raise money for a charity - Maia has agreed to sound out friends re a sponsored walk in aid of a homeless charity for teenagers.

Minutes of the last meeting:

The Sycamore course ceased after 3 sessions due to lack of interest from parents. However, the headteacher of St Martin's is using the course as a resource for staff in encouraging prayer with their classes.

Pocketful of prayers - Fr M has all the contacts re copyright of some prayers; he is awaiting advice on cost and a reply from Alive Publishing re the printing of the booklet.

DBS monitoring - ML still to establish this from the diocese.

Prayer Retreat - a date has been fixed: Saturday, 9th March, 9.45-2.30.

Lent and Easter - the Easter card has been published and distributed. Many thanks to Fran G. For her help in producing the card. TM has put out a request for readers for the Easter services and would like confirmation of the readings for the Easter Vigil Mass - Fr M to liaise with Frances T.

The Thoughtful Living Group - ML has contacted the Campaigns team at Cafod re assessment for the LiveSimply Award. They have requested a summary of TLG activities and projects in the first instance. TLG are also interested in organising a 'Whit Walk' - a parish walk around Whitsun time to raise funds for the Reading Refugee Group. The risk assessment and route from the previous walk could be reused.

Social and fundraising events - thank you to MO'D, Kevin and friends for a very successful board games afternoon, which was extremely well attended. Thank you too, to Sue R and grandson, Callum, for a highly entertaining quiz night, which was well pitched for a capacity crowd.

Re future planning - this should be discussed at greater length at the next meeting. It was felt that Fr M's 50th anniversary of ordination into the priesthood (20th April) should be marked by the parish - possible afternoon tea (it's a Sunday)?

BT suggested sounding out Fr Michael Doyle as a speaker for the Parish Weekend in September - Fr M and BT to enquire.

AOB - none

Date of next meeting: 20/03 and 22/04 (tbc)

Closing Prayer

Meeting closed 20.00