

MINUTES OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 10 JANUARY 2022, 7:00 pm in Parish Centre

Present:

Ann Barton (chair), Deacon Des Bill, Elaine Corrin, Will Daunt, Terry Graham, Deacon Peter Mawtus, Susan O'Halloran, Claire Reed, Irene Slack, Fr Godric Timney.

Minutes Secretary: Brian Farrimond

1. Opening Prayer: Irene.

2. Apologies: None.

3. Safeguarding Update

Terry reported there were still delays in DBS processing at the Archdiocesan level. Terry also explained that all the parish files were now in her keeping.

Deacon Des reported that work continued on national safeguarding procedures

4. Reviewing actions from last meeting

4.1 Thanks for parishioner contributions to the Food Bank

This has been done via the Bulletin. Generous contributions from parishioners continue.

4.2 Call for Welcomer volunteers

Claire reported that there were about 15 Welcomers, mainly from amongst the Covid stewards. More were needed in order to lighten the load, to widen the diversity of the group and to allow for additional services such as Funerals.

Fr Godric will mention this at Mass and Claire put a notice in the bulletin.

4.3 Drop-in sessions for tea and coffee

Due to the present Covid situation and also to the reduced numbers at Sunday coffee, it was decided to delay consideration of weekday drop-in sessions.

4.4 Coffee after Sunday 10:30 am Mass

Terry reported that the sessions have been cancelled for the rest of January because the depleted team were concerned about the rise in Covid cases locally.

Attendance had been very low and the team are investigating the reasons and looking at ways of being more proactive in encouraging people to come along.

4.5 Tree planting

The trees have arrived. Planting will take place when conditions are suitable.

4.6 Thank you for COP26 Vigils

A letter, on behalf of the PPC, had been sent to St Bede's School thanking them for the excellent vigils the staff and pupils organised during COP 26 and to offer congratulations on the school gaining an award for their mental health programme. It was reported that the letter was very well received.

4.7 Churches Together

The first meeting of Churches Together since Covid will take place on Tuesday 18 January. The parish has been invited. Elaine and Terry are to attend and report back to the PPC.

4.8 Christmas and New Year

Fr Godric reported on the Christmas and New Year services. He was very pleased with arrangements and with the response from the parish.

The timing of the Masses seemed about right and acceptable to the parish.

Attendance at the four Christmas Masses was around 700, half of pre-Covid levels. This was not surprising in the light of continuing concern about the virus. However, for the two Masses which were streamed a total of just over 700 views were recorded.

5. Continuing “Refreshing the Work of the PPC”

Liturgy and Sacraments

It was agreed that there should be periodic meetings to plan and coordinate liturgical and sacramental events and to look ahead to feast days.

The first meeting, on ideas for a Lenten programme, is planned for Sunday 6 February after the 10:30 am Mass (approximately 11:30 am). This to include the clergy, members of the PPC and parishioners wishing to attend, including invitations to specific groups such as the Music Groups and the Children’s Liturgy Group.

At some stage, standardising the singing of responses during Mass and enabling rehearsal of the singing of the Psalm before Mass, to be considered.

Parish Projects

Irene reported that the **Secret Garden** was making progress and that St Anne’s School was very supportive. A competition to design all or part of the garden will be launched.

The environmental group has collected cutlery for use in the Pastoral Centre kitchen to help in the reduction of plastic items.

It was suggested that notices in the bulletin could advise parishioners about where various items could be **re-cycled**, including new information on recycling blister packs.

6. Pastoral Plan

The Liverpool Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan is available in hard copy from the Pauline Bookshop in Liverpool (price £2) or can be downloaded as a free PDF online at <https://liverpoolpastoralplan.org.uk/plan/>

Fr Godric is ordering a number of hard copies of the Plan.

Joan Bill has agreed to help support the parish’s response to the plan and to assist with responses to the Universal Synod.

7. AOB

7.1 Marriage Preparation

Peter explained that the Archdiocese was no longer offering a Marriage Preparation programme and circulated a document from the Archdiocese explaining the changes and options. See Appendix 1.

A discussion took place in which the following points were made:

- was the only feasible option for the parish the 4th, bespoke way?
- does the parish have the capacity to develop a bespoke programme? If not then the first way, paying for the Marriage Care route may be a price worth paying.

It was agreed that this will be discussed further at the next clergy meeting.

7.2 Lent and Feasts - preparation

This was covered above in section 5.

7.3 PPC Constitution

It was agreed that the reconstituted PPC should review and update the original PPC Constitution which was last amended in 2008. A meeting to this end will take place on Monday 24 January 10-11 am in the Priory. If preferred, comments can be forwarded to Ann for inclusion on 24th.

Brian will send out a copy of the 2008 version of the Constitution in advance.

8. Next meeting

8.1 Monday 28 February 2022, 7pm in the Parish Centre hall.

7.2 Opening and closing prayers: Brian to arrange.

9. Closing prayer: Deacon Peter.

ACTION POINTS – 10 January 2022

1	A further call for volunteers as welcomers. Claire to put a notice in the bulletin. Fr Godric to speak at Mass.	Claire, Fr Godric
2	Terry and coffee team to look into falling numbers at Sunday coffee.	Terry
3	Elaine and Terry to attend Churches Together meeting on 18 January and report back to PPC. Ann to forward the invite to Elaine and Terry.	Elaine, Terry, Ann
4	Fr Godric and Ann to invite parishioners to a meeting on Sunday 6 February after 10:30 am Mass to plan events for Lent.	Fr Godric, Ann
5	Environmental team to add a bulletin notice about blister packs and a reminder about other recyclable items.	Sue, Claire, Irene
6	Clergy to discuss the future of marriage preparation within the parish	Fr Godric, Deacon Des, Deacon Peter
7	PPC Members to discuss PPC Constitution or forward comments if preferred	Interested PPC members
8	Brian to send PDF of current Constitution to PPC members	Brian

Appendix 1: Marriage Preparation

What Do I Do?

I want to book a preparation for my Catholic marriage.

*After restructuring, the new department for Pastoral Development no longer has a marriage and family life coordinator, or any equivalent. This means that we no longer have the capacity to administer and coordinate 'in-house' the two key preparation options, that of Marriage Care **Preparing Together Course** and **FOCCUS**, as was a long-standing tradition in this diocese. However, we have been working closely with Marriage Care on maintaining this provision for those who are interested in either (or both) modes of preparation. This provision is not different from what has been offered so far, it is just administered and coordinated by Marriage Care, who own the copyright for the day course and licence for FOCCUS. This way, we maintain a continuity of preparation in partnership with an organisation that is developing a strategy of continuous support for the couples as well as trainers, facilitators and marriage counsellors. Our hope is that, in time, every deanery will be able to provide a local course.*

There are currently four main ways of obtaining **marriage preparation**, which is **required for anyone wishing to get married in the Catholic Church**.

1. Marriage Care Preparing Together Course - book online ([Preparing Together Anywhere](#)) [here](#).

This is an interactive, skills-oriented, group course facilitated live using Zoom. The course is delivered over weekly sessions of 90 minutes over a period of 3 consecutive weeks, and is suitable for couples planning to marry in the Catholic Church.

Preparing Together Anywhere has been awarded an [imprimatur](#) from Cardinal Vincent Nichols and upon completion of the course the couples receive a certificate as verification of attendance.

2. FOCCUS questionnaire - book online ([FOCCUS Anywhere](#)) [here](#).

This is a bespoke, questionnaire-based exploration of relationship expectations. It is done individually with each couple over 2-6 one-hour sessions by a skilled facilitator using Zoom. This resource was developed by FOCCUS Inc., an apostolate of the Archdiocese of Omaha, and is suitable for couples planning to marry in the Catholic Church. Upon completion, the couple receives a certificate as verification of attendance.

3. Engaged Encounter Preparation - book [here](#).

4. Bespoke preparation in your local parish - please enquire with your **parish priest or deacon**.

There may be a discount available for doing both the Marriage Care preparation and FOCCUS questionnaire. If you wish to book over the phone, please ring the Appointments service **0800 389 3801 (Mon-Thurs 9am-6pm)**, or email appointments@marriagecare.org.uk. If you cannot afford the suggested donation, please talk to Marriage Care, who will strive to find a solution with you. Do not hesitate to contact us (pd@rcaol.org.uk) if you need more clarification, or your circumstances require an additional conversation.