

St Joseph's Pastoral Council Meeting 2nd September 2021

Present: Peter T, (Chair) Dcn Hugh, Pete B, Lesley, Peter E, Irene, Mary,
Apologies: Fr John, Wendy, Johanna.

Minutes of 10th August were agreed and there were no matters arising

Reports

First Holy Communion:

Mary talked about the parent-centred approach developed by Johanna (with support from Mary) over recent years, and especially during the Pandemic, when only zoom meetings were possible and families were visited on the doorstep. This in turn led to the idea of an online Family Liturgy each week; an opportunity for families to gather virtually, share the Scripture and pray together. This approach is completely in line with the PC focus on welcome, accompaniment and evangelisation.

Follow-up comments:

- We cannot expect that things will be the same, with Johanna and Mary stepping back. Any programme need not start until January
- In Canon Law, it is the parish priest who determines if a child is ready for FHC; age 8 is not fixed- sometimes it is better if the child is older
- We need to take a 'holding position,' and meet with parents in October to explain the situation, as we seek to discern the way forward.
(Further discussion to take place at support meeting)

EST: Peter T reported that John Murphy wants current members to step down and be replaced by younger dynamic people_____

Alpha: The next course will be advertised in the newsletter and from the lectern on Sunday. Kevin Butler has prepared a testimony to be read on Sunday

Finance:

Parish overdraft is currently £49,500

Youth ministry funding is suspended for now, given Fr John's situation; funding would not be just to pay a youth worker but to support other initiatives to do with young people

There is no job description and no contract for youth ministry at present

Everything needs to be on an official footing

Peter E is meeting regularly with Emma and Juliette

Easing of Restrictions: to be discussed at Support meeting on Wednesday

PC Chairmanship: Peter will remain as Chair until December and then step down

Hugh suggested that a younger person might be persuaded to take on the chairmanship for one year

Matters of the Moment (Hugh)

Supply priests will celebrate all Sunday masses up to and including the feast of Christ the King (21st November)

After September, Hugh will step away from Liturgy of the Word on Wednesdays

Mike Cooper will rota people to cover Wednesdays

Wendy is back in the office, with Hugh as 'first contact'

All those working in the office should have a dedicated lunchbreak

AOB

Pete B is very concerned about the lack of response to repeated appeals for tech support

Hugh will speak about this at mass on Sunday 12th September

The return of altar servers will be delayed until Advent

Paul will lead the servers, with Livvy and Rex in support

The Parish celebration for the Year of St Joseph: now booked for Sunday 10th October(4pm)

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Next meeting: Wednesday 29th September at 2pm in the Parish Centre

(Irene has kindly offered to take over the role of minute-taker, starting with this meeting).