

Our Lady of the Annunciation, Addiscombe

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

Thursday 27th July 2024 at 8.00 pm in the Parish Resource Centre

Minutes

1. Opening Prayer: (Fr Keith)

2. Apologies: None

Present: Fr Keith, Terry Braim, Paul Donovan, Mary Ann McGuigan, Peter McGuigan, Jenny Mitchener, Marie Tross, Jennifer Da Silva, Nike Arowobusoye, Fr Tomasz

3. Reports and updates:

Safeguarding: DBS processing is continuing steadily. Joanna is looking at ways to 'mop up' those yet to be trained and/or processed. Only after this will new recruits begin to be processed. Fr Keith has not yet been able to convene a committee meeting. Joanna & Fr Keith are still monitoring emails. Fr Keith expressed thanks to Joanna for all the work she has put in towards improving our safeguarding procedures.

Plant works: Still awaiting professional recommendations on the hall roof and church ceiling. Fr Keith is considering what to do for the chapel windows. Noel & Aloysius have made the rear fencing secure. Work is still needed on the side fencing.

Parish Anniversaries:

Commemorative Calendar: The 'Calendar Girls' have now finalised the layout and it has been submitted to the printers. They will also create a draft for the proposed memorial scroll.

Altar frontal: Jenny Lucas reported at the AGM, appealed for those with appropriate skills to come forward to contribute, and gave an approximate timescale for the project. A newsletter appeal for skilled volunteers will follow in due course.

The Archbishop has agreed to attend the celebration Mass on 2nd Oct '25. Fr Keith also reported the **grotto project** has secured sponsorship.

Mass books: Replacements for the McCrimmons Mass books are priced at £5 each if bought in bulk, with 6 books needed to cover the 3 year rotation. The Sunday Missal from CTS (covering the full 3 years) will be £20 (hardback). Further options may become available in the next few months. Bearing in mind our previous discussions, Fr Keith is considering the options available and further discussion will follow at the next meeting. He requested that we listen to any discussions and provide information on this as necessary and give feedback when we discuss this further.

Deanery Meeting: The suggestion that they might employ someone to boost income is unlikely to be implemented. Diocesan support may be made available to support specific problems in individual parishes.

Welcome notices: Fr Keith plans to have discussions with readers including correct use of the microphones and the possibility of scripted formal announcements before some services.

4. AGM Review:

The business aspects of the meeting were well covered with reports made, questions answered and a number of useful suggestions discussed. However, attendance was low and the meeting was felt to be rather too formal and unattractive. Suggestions for improvement included:

- change to an annual reports week with submitted questions
- sending invites earlier and ensuring thorough coverage
- group divisions, contacts and reports need review and update
- communication within groups needs support
- following up more on gathering reports
- make it more social and less formal?
- combine it with food - picnic, BBQ or buffet?
- call it something less formal - parish review, group updates, parish picnic or Pentecost picnic?

This will be revisited prior to the next 'AGM' date.

5. Ongoing Formation & Catechesis:

Talks by Fr Tomasz are very good at stating and clarifying the Church's position on many topical (and often challenging) issues.

Other groups (such as 'Men of St Joseph') offer a prayerful and spiritual approach. Talks with discussions are held by Ascent, UCM and others.

It had been suggested that we need more **discussion** groups.

The possibility of running some of the available short 'house group' courses was discussed. These are usually 5 or 6 weeks with multimedia resources on a theme followed by discussion. They are aimed at small groups meeting in a house or small hall. Andy Bebington had offered to run an ecumenical based course, and Fr Keith agreed to explore this, possibly for early autumn. If successful, we might then follow it with an Advent course - perhaps from the diocese.

Fr Keith and Fr Tomasz also suggested there may be scope for follow-up discussions for the topics already presented in the talks.

6. Welfare of elderly, infirm and sick parishioners

Many regular visits are undertaken by the clergy, by members of the SVP and by EMEs and others. On the whole those in need are well reported and responded to via the office. Fr Tomasz keeps a list of those brought to his attention.

It was suggested that we might 'keep an eye on this' to monitor whether any needs are not being promptly met by not being reported.

It was also suggested that we might consider recording updates and feedback on those visited and perhaps recording visit dates.

7. Centenary Song

With our upcoming parish anniversaries, Andy Bebington decided to pen some lyrics for a centenary song. It was suggested that it might be appropriate to be performed as part of the celebrations in the parish hall.

A.O.B.: Paul Donovan announced his intention to resign from the PPC. He was thanked for his contributions to our deliberations.

8. Date of next meeting: 3rd October 2024

9. Fr Keith closed the meeting with a prayer