

## Mary, Mother of God Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Tuesday 23 March 2021 at 7pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom

1. Father Peter led opening prayers
  
2. Present: Joe Deegan (Chair) Agnes Tetteh (Vice) Father Paul Grogan, Father Peter Morkah, Bernadette Benyon, Sean Kilduff, Julia Mason. Ben Lavin, Moira Page, Ellie Rose Henry, Michelle Vink
  
3. Apologies: Sandra Scully, Eve Wright, Monica Spyrka, Christian Oldcorn, Lissa Oldcorn.
  
4. Matters arising
  
5. JD asked if Father Paul had received any feedback from First Holy Communion Parents . Very little feedback had been received which was disappointing. Consideration to be given as to how to keep parents engaged after First Communion.
  
6. JD also asked about Divine Renovation. Father Paul advised that this was a Parish Renewal initiative focussing on Missionary objectives inside / outside the parish rather than the maintenance of existing Parish practices.
  
7. JD introduced the focus of the meeting which was to be in relation to preparedness of the parish for the end of lockdown restrictions. These minutes should be read alongside the Reports from the various Parish Groups which provide a lot more detail.
  
8. Faith Formation / Spirituality
  
9. It was felt that the booking system for mass attendance should be continued and we should await announcements from the Government and the diocese.

10. JM advised that First Holy Communion dates had been set for June and July with Father Paul hearing First Confessions in the school playgrounds.

11. Discussion was held re the success of the Sycamore programme in respect of Parental involvement. These would continue via Zoom moving forward . Sycamore groups had covered Advent and Lent themes. The sessions had also been offered to the Staff at our Primary schools and six people following the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults programme had also taken part.

12. Prayer sponsors (Fatima Group) were supporting children making their First Holy Communion.

13 The Charismatic Renewal Group had held a number of prayer meetings via Zoom with Bible reflections, Novena's and a Devotional Programme . Father Peter had given a talk entitled "Do not be afraid"

14. BL outlined the various initiatives in our Primary schools in respect of Faith Formation including Virtual rosary sessions, collective worship in class bubbles, live class masses, Penpals with elderly . Ben also told us about the Minny Vinnies with a view to developing Prayer Leaders. Minny Vinnies were Primary School age range, followed by Youth SVP (11-14 years) and then YCW Young Christian Workers 14+

15 Reference made to the numerous initiatives and actions in respect of Faith Formation as detailed in the Group reports .

16 It was again noted that the Parish was striving to provide a comprehensive programme of Mass, sacramental and adult formation opportunities in these very difficult times. JD expressed his thanks to those who facilitated the programmes on behalf of our parishioners.

17. JD made reference to the SLT report and the proposal to "Accompany" new parishioners to assimilate into the parish and the faith. Consideration to be given to how we might support the various Group Leaders in their roles. JD to issue note .

18. JD raised a point about the prospects of having a Parish retreat. This had been curtailed due to the Lockdown. Fr P and AT to revisit

19 Social Life of the Parish

20 It was agreed that it was very difficult to maintain the normal social life of parish during lockdown

21 Consideration and forward thinking to be given to possible events after lockdown. A simple "Parish Social" would be a good opportunity to get together again when rules allow. Father Paul to include a list of Summer events (including trips etc) in the Bulletin.

22 Events welcoming our wider community also to be considered . eg Assumption day Parish BBQ, Summer Fayre etc

23. BB asked about the prospect of the Family Groups getting up and running again . There is a desire to reintroduce after lockdown . E-mail to be issued to all participants.

24 A social to be considered for the First Communicants and their families.

25 JD reminisced about the Rounders evenings at School which were good fun and well attended—perhaps these could be held after lockdown

26. SK suggested that we canvas parishioners as to what social events they would like to see or if they had any ideas---Bulletin request / Facebook

27. Interventions Social Outreach / Charitable works

28 All our Parish groups were trying to carry on their valuable work wherever possible but again this was being frustrated by the restrictions. Despite the restrictions our Parish was engaged in many charitable works and initiatives. It is difficult to record here all the various works being carried out by our Parish Groups again please refer to group reports---only those discussed are noted below:-

27 Hot meals and hopefully Easter packs were being prepared by Catholic care (MV)

28 Good links were continuing with Sandale Trust with a popular Community Market

29. Consideration being given to a parish café .

29 Gianna project were still looking for sealed goods eg nappies where possible

30 Telephoning isolated parishioners had been welcomed by many. It was felt that a new call be made to those parishioners who still wanted to help in this way

31 Individual parishioners were still of course taking care of isolated relatives etc as necessary

32 The delivery of the bulletin , homily and Wednesday word was of comfort to many.

33 Ben said that the school children were writing letters and making cards for the housebound.

34. MV advised that consideration was being given to the introduction of a Cinema Club (licences etc needed)

35 Any other business

36 Father Paul updated the PPC on Parish Finances. Our reserves had only just been expended. Hopefully halls usage might pick up again and a new tenant had been found for the house at St John's. Funds had been made available for a Parish Youth Worker and it was hoped that an appointee might be in place in advance of the main school holidays.

37 JD thanked everybody for their valued input and their hard work throughout the year. He wished all those present a Holy Easter.

38 Date of next Meeting

39 Thursday 24 June at 7 pm (venue / format TBC)