



CATHOLIC PARISH OF GUILDFORD

Minutes, Formation Team Meeting, Wednesday 13th January 2021

Attendees: Janet Burr, Zelma Braganza, Peter Charlwood, Aseel Gilbert, Tina Nichols, Chris Richardson, Fr Roy Waters, Sinclair Webster.

Apologies: none

Circulation: as preceding plus Mgr Tony Barry, Susie Ball, Sandy Hunt (Parish Secretary), David Campbell (Mission Team), Yvonne Newman (Communications Team)

1. Welcome

- The meeting opened with a Prayer

2. **Apologies for Absence** none

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 10th June 2020.

Matters arising from the minutes were all covered on the agenda.

4. Advent Hope Review

Notes from the facilitators debrief had been circulated in advance. In general, the course was well received although it required considerable adjustment between session to reduce the volume of material to be covered. It was suggested that four key lessons were learnt. First, expectations needed to be managed, making sure that participants knew the kind of session they were engaging with. Second, spending time with the facilitators has benefits for them and for the group sessions that they participate in. Third, Facilitators need ongoing training. Fourth, there is a demand for further formation on the Old Testament.

5. Bible Study Options

There was a strong feeling that whatever we offered had to demonstrate a link between the Old Testament and the New. The 'Bible Timeline' places the Old Testament in its historical context and may be of interest to some parishioners. We can certainly advertise it. The 'Genesis to Jesus' course traces the Covenants and links them with the coming of the Lord. It may well help people see the relevance of the OT to the NT. Consideration will be given to offering this course sometime after Easter. It was noted that the CBCEW website has a series of commentaries on St Mark's Gospel under the title 'Echoes of God'. We will bring this to the attention of parishioners.

6. Ongoing Facilitator Formation

This arose from the facilitators debrief after the Advent Hope course and it was agreed that further thought would be needed before we could make progress with it. It will be taken forward to a future agenda.

7. Lent

The discussion about what we should offer during Lent focussed on the Diocesan 'Invited' initiative. There was general agreement that we should support this but it was acknowledged that a more local delivery would fulfil the need for fellowship that the current pandemic demanded. A balance needed to be struck between supporting the diocesan initiative whilst continuing to maintain close connections with our own parishioners at a time when some people were finding their faith shaken by the pandemic.

The Diocesan two-part course will be advertised, and consideration will be given to providing a local version for those who feel this more closely meets their needs. Parishioners will be encouraged to join either option.

8. A.O.B

Two items were noted for later consideration.

The Amoris Laetitia Family Year has been announced by Pope Francis and Marriage and family Life will discuss this and suggest how we might support it. It was suggested that we should at least make parishioners aware of it.

The parish Prayer Team are exploring formation on Adoration and want to co-ordinate this with what we are doing. It was suggested that they develop their thinking, and we can then make provision for it. If the Chair of the Prayer Team would like to discuss what is intended with the Chair of this Team then that would be helpful.

9. Date of Next meeting

The next meeting will be on 24th February 2021 at 7.30 on Zoom. It was agreed that we would keep the Zoom link provided for this meeting and use it for future meetings of this Team.

8. Closing Prayer

Fr Roy closed the meeting with a prayer and a blessing.

DRAFT