

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF GUILDFORD**  
**Minutes, Formation Team Meeting, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

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**Attendees:** Janet Burr (**JB**) Zelma Braganza (**ZB**), Peter Charlwood (**PC**), Una Corning (**UC**) Aseel Gilbert (**AG**) Chris Richardson (**CR**), Fr Roy Waters (**FRW**), Sinclair Webster (**SW**)

**Apologies:** Tina Nichols (**TN**)

**Circulation:** as preceding plus Mgr Tony Barry (**MTB**), Fr Sebastian Paul (**FrSP**), Fr Roy Waters (**FrRW**), Susie Ball (**SB**), Sandy Hunt (**SH**) Parish Secretary

**ACTIONS ARISING:** Initials in **BOLD**

**1. Welcome**

- Chris Richardson opened the meeting with a Reading and Prayer

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 18/9/19**

Following points to be included and reissued to reflect the following:

- 1.i) Zelma Braganza is a Governor of St Joseph's School Rydes Hill
- 2.i) St Joseph's, St Mary's and St Pius X all have a Liturgy Committee and St Pius X has a Pastoral Team

**3. Catechist Formation:**

**a) Catholic Christian Outreach Formation programme for Catechists of the First Holy Communion Programme**

- An update on the recent formation programme for catechists was provided by AG
- This was based on material from the (Canadian) Catholic Christian Outreach programme which offers 5 different levels, of which the first three have been run so in CPG, purely for the Catechists of the First Holy Communion Programme (FHC), as the programme is targeted more towards younger participants
- the first level is 'Discovery' which attracted 60 participants initially reducing to 40 over the course of the programme; the second 'Source'; and most recently 'Growth' which attracted 30 participants
- AG felt this programme had proved successful in developing the confidence of FHC Catechists in being able to speak about their Faith, through being able to meet other Parishioners and hear their personal Faith stories; importantly it had also helped recruit more volunteers to help with FHC in Guildford, which now is very different in that it focuses on 'forming' the parents of the FHC parents so that they can teach their children about the sacrament of FHC
- Both Catholic Parishes of Wimbledon and Cranleigh have shown interest in the current FHC programme in Guildford, have visited CPG to see a session; AG now hopes to make Cranleigh a focus for implementing this programme in their own community
- AG had also invited 5 of the current Confirmation candidates to take part in the 'Discovery' programme, which she felt had been very successful this term; they will progress next term to cover the next two stages of 'Source' and 'Growth';
- JB asked for more input on the teaching methods **AG**
- FRW asked whether it was intended to move forward to the next (fourth) stage 'Trust'; however AG mentioned she wanted to avoid any conflict with any plans to rerun the Alpha programme in Guildford in the next year and that moving forward in CPG, she felt it best to rerun the first three stages of the CCO programme, supplementing this with additional support e.g what questions might be presented to the Catechists and how they can address these with parents;
- PC confirmed that there was certainly a desire to rerun Alpha but a date had not yet been set until more was understood about AG's plans for the CCO programme. AG to liaise with PC on this and how to progress forward **AG/PC**

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**b) Parish wide small group reflection**

- it was recognised that running Lent Groups across the Parish may cause an unnecessary conflict with the existing ecumenical Lent Groups which have been running in the Merrow & Burpham areas for some years; PC suggested it might be helpful to communicate that these Groups exist across the wider Parish
- CR proposed that the Parish might instead follow the Catholic Bishop's Conference of England & Wales (CBCEW) programme 'The God Who Speaks' because 2020 is to be a year of **celebrating, living and sharing God's Word**, and CBCEW have resource materials to support this.
- this programme focuses on scripture: 'Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other' (ref: CBCEW)
- As part of the activity planned, throughout 2020 the Bishops of England and Wales invite us to join them in reading Saint Matthew's Gospel, just a few verses each day.
- it was agreed that the Parish should make Matthew's Gospel a real focus for CPG, starting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time on 26<sup>h</sup> January, with an announcement at all weekend Masses across the Parish; FRW to confirm agreement with his fellow Priests to this proposal **FRW**
- CR will work with FRW on how this can be developed further across the Parish for the following 2 weekends of 2/2 and 9/2 until half term at which point a break will take place before potentially resuming after half term **CR/FRW**
- this plan will include:
  - i. **Homilies at Mass which link through to Children's Liturgy; AG to coordinate content for this with Clergy**
  - ii. **Newsletter Announcement on front page**
  - iii. **Parish wide email of the CBCEW brochure of 'The God Who Speaks' so that all Parishioner who are registered have cost effective access to the resource material**
  - iv. **Books and/or Bibles will be made available for Parishioners**
  - v. **Reflection Groups: a working party to be formed to plan these with speakers eg Fr Tony Milner**
  - vi. **Parish wide leaflet to help target a 'wider' audience and to engage more in participation**

**c) Schools of Prayer**

- it was agreed that the activity of this Formation Team should focus on formation that does not fall within the remit of the Prayer & Mission Teams

**d) Adult Confirmation**

- carried forward to next meeting

**e) Welcoming**

- carried forward to next meeting

**4. NEXT MEETING 7.30pm Wednesday 19/2/2019**