

CATHOLIC PARISH OF GUILDFORD
Minutes, Formation Team Meeting, Wednesday 16th September 2020

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

Apologies: None

Circulation: as preceding plus Mgr Tony Barry (**MTB**), Fr Thomas Kent (**FTK**), Susie Ball (**SB**), Sandy Hunt (**SH**)
Parish Secretary

ACTIONS ARISING: Initials in **BOLD**

1. Welcome

Chris Richardson opened the meeting with a Prayer

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 25th March 2020

i) Amendments requested:

Page 5 replace 'Marriage Guidance' with 'Marriage Preparation' **CR**

ii) Communication

- A hard copy newsletter is being produced for Parishioners who do not have online access and a postal mailing list is being compiled. **FRW**
- TORs and Minutes for this Team will be published on the Parish Website **CR**

3. Planned Formation Programmes

An update on all the current programmes being offered across the Parish was given as follows:

i) Marriage Preparation **TN**

- Recommences on Wednesday evenings, on 23/9 via Zoom weekly for 4 weeks, culminating with a Mass for participants
- All materials have been distributed to the 9 couples participating
- TN is currently rewriting the course for use by the Diocese

ii) RCIA

- Deferred reception of 2019/2020 candidates will now take place on 4th October
- New programme commences Tuesday 22/9 via Zoom with 9 participants (and potentially one more), with 17/18 sessions taking place until May 2021
- All course materials are being converted into electronic form for distribution to candidates
- NF has joined the Team to help

iii) Confirmation/FHC **AG**

- Deferred Confirmation programme, for 42 candidates, was completed two weeks ago and two of the four Confirmation Masses have now taken place
- Deferred FHC programme recommences on Thursday 17/9 with refocus on Reconciliation
- Online 'taught Mass' for FHC families, led by the Clergy, will be held on 4/10
- Final Session on the Eucharist will be held for Parents
- October Half Term: 5-day Reconciliation Festival is currently planned for 150 FHC Families
- November: 9 FHC Masses are planned across 5 weekends
- January 2021: new FHC/Confirmation programmes begin, all on Zoom; Welcome Liturgy for the FHC families is really important

iv) 'Growth' Formation Programme **AG**

- Currently running across 6 groups of participants

v) 'Source' Formation Programme **AG**

- Currently running for 2 groups of participants

CATHOLIC PARISH OF GUILDFORD
Minutes, Formation Team Meeting, Wednesday 16th September 2020

vi) Parenting Course

AG

- This will start after the school half term break, and will be run with the help of a support team

vii) Home Groups

PC

- Groups have continued to meet via Zoom throughout the summer months, meeting every other Thursday (next is planned for 24/9) and may continue throughout the Christmas break
- Word on Fire's study programme on 'The Mass' is concluding shortly and what is to be offered next is being considered but may include 'Bible Timeline'

viii) Teams of Our Lady (not represented on this Formation Team currently)

- This Group exists outside the Parish, aimed at Catholic Married Couples of which there are about 7-8 teams in Guildford of 4 to 5 couples taking part
- Meetings are continuing monthly, currently following 'Grace' by Michael Casey
- Local Co-Ordinator is understood to be Peter & Yvonne Newman

FRW/CR

4. Idealised Faith Development Pathway

CR

CR asked for comments on the document, prepared for discussion at this meeting. A wide ranging discussion was held in which the following observations were offered:

- Linear faith development tends to culminate with Confirmation
- It can also be cyclical e.g. when young parents return to the FHC programme with their Children
- However formation after confirmation is less structured, a matter of personal choice and timing
- Parenthood is a big trigger for many, for example RCIA attracts many young people
- A Pathway could reflect different groups of Parishioners, life events or touchpoints, e.g. the Sacraments, which are central to the development of Faith
- The path to developing Faith is quite different for someone who starts their Faith journey as a young, independent adult rather than a cradle Catholic; for example they could start with Marriage Preparation rather than Baptism
- We should think about people as individuals and their personal journeys of Faith, especially in the context of COVID19 and the amount of young families who may simply not return to Church

CR asked if we might be doing more in terms of Vocational Discernment on which the following comments were offered

- We should examine what is available and determine what is missing
- Our aim should be to build up the Church and to communicate what is available in a clearer way
- More should be offered to our Ministers of the Word and for our EMHCs
- Witness breeds vocations e.g. the witness of a young Priest, or the opportunity of being in the presence of our Priests
- Lay vocation: how we live our Christian lives; how we empower people to live out their Faith; our family lives provide opportunity to generate vocations if sharing real Faith with our children
- Pathway to Holiness

5. Next Meeting. Wednesday 21st October at 7.30pm