



CATHOLIC PARISH OF GUILDFORD

Minutes, Formation Team Meeting, Wednesday 25th March 2020

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

Apologies: Una Corning (**UC**)

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

1. Welcome

- The meeting opened with a Reading and Prayer

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 19th February 2020.

- PC confirmed that contact had been made with the organiser of the Bible in a Day course but that it would obviously have to be put on hold during the current coronavirus outbreak. AG confirmed that the CCO course would not go ahead as planned but she intended to offer it in a video conferencing format.

3. Amended Agenda to Reflect Current Coronavirus Situation

There followed a wide-ranging discussion that the following notes seek to capture:

There is a hope that we will be able to start sacramental programmes from September.

General worry that numbers of Mass attenders will drop in September and that we will have to pull people back slowly.

Aim of having a big event in January for the parish.

It was agreed that the Bible day will be postponed until at least the Autumn.

CCO are going to share their resources online to allow groups to run online faith studies. The plan is to run Trust as planned after Easter via Zoom. Aseel to coordinate this.

Other things we could think to putting into place during this time were discussed. One example was praying the rosary. Deacon Thomas Kent who started his deaconate with the parish on Monday 23rd March is hoping to contribute some online content.

It was confirmed that there will be no receptions or baptisms at the Easter Vigil. The triduum is likely to be celebrated by one priest in a simpler form.

The three week Sunday Mass focus on the "God who speaks" was briefly reviewed. It was felt that the first week worked well but the changes in the Gospel away from Matthew due to feast days etc., was unfortunate and resulted in a loss in focus.

From September through to Christ the King, we have a clear run of Matthews Gospel, so it was proposed that the “God who speaks” Sunday focus is run again.

Jan suggested posters being put up to catch peoples eye as they walk into the churches.

Sinclair suggested of a short session after Mass to reflect together on what we have learnt from the homily.

Chris suggested providing a bit more guidance of a few points that should be covered next time round.

Zelma suggested recording the priests’ homily for the “God who speaks” series and publishing them on the website.

Sinclair suggested that the newsletter reflections could refer to the recordings on the website.

Aseel pointed out that the average parishioner tends to attend Mass monthly and so the next “God who speaks” series should go over more than 3 weeks next time.

Fr Roy confirmed that the aim of the homilies during this series is to put the Gospels into context.

Aseel pointed out that September is a good opportunity to evangelise so there needs to be balance between formation on the person of Matthew and the context in which he is speaking and sharing the kerygma.

Peter Charlwood said that we need to think about where people are at. There is a sense that people are starting to feel anger and frustration toward God.

There was a conversation about how to acknowledge peoples feeling and how to help us all answer these difficult questions.

There was a brief conversation about how to support parishioners now: Connecting those without internet to Mass through phone calls; finding out who parishioners are that need support; posting the homily to parishioners; how to help those who are in supporting roles in the parish.

It was suggested that a framework of support be put in place for those who are calling parishioners e.g. a prayer that could be said before the call; the importance of acknowledging the vulnerable person’s feelings; after the call, making notes about the conversation; having someone they can call to debrief.

In terms of next steps, it was agreed that the formation team would focus on getting ready for September. **It was suggested that members write down ideas and send them to Chris or the whole group, ready for discussion at the next meeting.**

4. Next meeting scheduled for April 29th, by video conference on Zoom