

CATHOLIC PARISH OF GUILDFORD
Approved Minutes, Formation Team Meeting, Wednesday 10th June 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**), Dcn Thomas Kent (**DcnT**), 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

- Approved without amendment; FRW asked that Fr Sebastian's name be removed from the email circulation

3. Current Concerns/Future Projects

a) The God Who Speaks/The Year of the Word /Matthew's Gospel

- this programme will conclude on the Feast of Christ the King (22nd November 2020) **CR/FRW**
- the linked Homilies for this weekend to be distributed to Parishioners via email or post (to those without access to internet or a PC) **FRW/AG**
- in the interim, from September to the Feast of Christ the King, the Celebrants will revisit this via the Parish email newsletter, Mass Notices etc, asking how Parishioners have been getting on with the material **FRW**

b) Bereavement Group

- Diocesan Bereavement Course is currently being redeveloped by Katherine Bergin
- only one person in the Parish had been recorded as having had this training in the past year (Henia Whiteman)
- Three Parishioners from St Pius X had planned to go on the next course but Lockdown had prevented this happening (Frances Allen, Michael Steele, Jo Aldridge)
- CR agreed to find a Co-Ordinator for Bereavement Support, to offer friendship initially (if needed) and to inform of Bereavement Mass, and to co-ordinate also with the Mission Group under which activity for Bereavement falls **CR**

c) House/Area Pastoral Groups

It was agreed this should be an item for the Mission Team. CR to contact this Team. **CR**

d) Online Formation

- The Parish 'online' offering of Formation via Zoom (used for Discovery/RCIA/Home Groups) had proved very encouraging in terms of its effectiveness in engaging Parishioner participation, as it was easier for people to 'attend' virtually, with less time pressure in 'getting somewhere (eg Church Hall) to take part, reducing anxiety generally, being more personal in style. It also helped reduce the issue of one or two participants dominating the discussion.
 - For Discovery it had also meant that AG had been able to have a weekly meeting via Zoom with the Facilitators, to help them become more effective in their leadership of the Groups and this had greatly helped the effective delivery of the material.
 - For Discovery 70 had initially signed up to participate, of which 43 actually logged in; so far 50 have signed up for the new Source programme
- It was agreed that the Parish should continue to develop online Formation. **FRW**

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e) Structure Courses

- Zoom also represents a new opportunity for the Parish to offer the Alpha programme again in October; the one to one ministry aspect of Alpha could be facilitated separately in individual Zoom sessions between facilitator and participant
 - It was agreed that CR would arrange to meet with AG and PC to discuss how different Formation offerings within the Parish might be structured
- CR/PC/AG**

f) RCIA

- online sessions had been taking place to help 'hold' and support candidates until such times as they can be received
- JB reported that the candidates appeared to be enjoying the Zoom sessions and found them helpful. It had not been decided whether there might be a 'summer break' from the sessions but currently it is unlikely that the Group can 'come together' before September/October

g) Sacramental Preparation

- First Holy Communion

There is a lot of 'catch up' to be done with this year's FHC Candidates; AG reported that that some of the online content has worked well, but the candidates remain a long way off being able to receive the sacrament. An online survey had suggested that 60% of parents would be interested in continuing the course online but, only a third of parents had actually participated.

This presents a significant concern, given the volume of candidates that will need 'catch up' formation, particularly in view of the fact the new course would normally start in September

- Marriage Preparation

TN reported that it was unlikely to be able to do things 'together' with potential participants before September and that the use of Zoom could be considered

FRW offered a closing prayer.

4. Next Meeting: Thursday 23rd July at 7.30pm