



**Catholic Parish of Guildford**  
**Minutes, Formation Team Meeting, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020**

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

**Apologise:** Janet Burr (JB)

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

1) **Opening Prayer** – Chris Richardson opened the meeting with a Prayer

2) **Apologies for Absence** – Given (See Above)

3) **Minutes of previous meeting** – Approved with no changes

4) **Idealised Faith Development Pathway**

Following points are related to a discussion about the document “Idealised Faith Pathways” produced by **CR**

**CR** Provide brief comment on this item and thanks **AG** and **FRW** for initial input. **AS** commented with approval for overall direction and referred to Sherry Widdles work on intentional discipleship. Also, that this document is important to look at both perspectives on how the church seems people and how people see the church. **CR** also added that he wants to make sure this does not get too complicated. **SW** commented around being careful that we don't track where people are on these pathways, we should be aware, but this is quite subjective. Also, possible to add “watch points for Pilgrims”. **ZB** commented that we need to be careful that the document does not get too technical and becomes a barrier to being understood. **SW** asking if these documents will be publishing to the parish? View from **CR**, **FRW** and **ZB** was this is more a document for the formation team and not the parish. **TN** commented that people may need to go forward as well as backwards on these pathways. **CR** agreed that this is more than possible.

**CR** raised question about what happens past transition stage and is it clear what we have to offer? **AG** commented that we always need to keep learning and that nurture groups are a good way to achieve this, gave example of parent group that formed which she is part off.

**CR** and **FRW** discussed coordination of activities taking place to make sure that they don't clash and how this document could support that.

The following points are related to a discussion about the document “parish Pathways” produced by **PC**

**PC** commented on additional diagram that he created and discussed how this supports the proceeding one that **CR** created. **SW** commented that in current form the diagram is quite complicated and would be good to simplify if possible. **CR** Agreed suggesting something more

interactive, also how do you capture nuances of the different groups. **AG** commented that this maybe more appropriate for those seeking and that not everyone is at that stage yet. **CR** and **FRW** commented they still felt this diagram is very useful, **FRW** also agreed with earlier comment about additional context for each group required. **ZB** Provided input saying she felt this diagram was very helpful, especially for those who are actively looking for things in the parish. **TN** spoke from experience of marriage prep that couples need a lot of support post marriage maybe five, six years down the line and we have a lot of ways to do this but if we don't tell people about these groups they will likely not know about them. **CR** Raised an interesting point about where do the worshipping communities fit in to this diagram? **FRW** raised concern with RCIA as an example, that retention of those who have completed RCIA is often very low. People need to be accompanied as well, referencing a point that **AG** made earlier. **AG, PC** and **CR** had a discussion about this also being a tool to help communicate what is happening in the parish as some feel that this is not communicated well but other feel a lot of work is already done in this space and it is not the role of the formation team to do communication. **SW** mentioned that for some people they may want to just do things themselves and not everyone wants accompaniment, they way want to just borrow a book on a saint and read it themselves. Important thing is that people have a faith and relationship with Christ.

**5) Advent planning** – **CR** presented two option for a possible advent course and gave a background on how they started in St Pius, one is based on advent readings and the other is written around the pandemic called "Hope". Plan if agreed would be to start the groups a week before advent and run for 4 weeks. **TN** supportive of the idea and that people would find this very helpful. **FRW** mentioned that is was good to start it a week early and sounds like a very good idea. **SW** mentioned usage of WhatsApp groups and possible usage of them to help people communicated and maybe a good addition to the advent group to be able to talk about the sessions. **CR** suggested his preference for the Hope version, **ZB** and **AG** agreed this is a good option as well having looked at the material. **ZB** asked a commented about when will sessions run Evening / Daytime? **CR** confirmed plan to run on a Wednesday evening as well as Monday and Wednesday lunch time. Sessions are aimed to be about 90 minutes. **PC** commented that social times as part of these session is important to help people to get to know each other. **CR** and **AG** agreed this is important to help create relationships. **ZB** added a comment that Homegroups have found having the social time at the end works very well so if people want to be part of it they can, but if they don't then they can just drop from the meeting. **CR** and **FRW** then discussed logistics of running the course as well as getting it advertised in the parish over the coming weeks.

We then had a brief discussion about the bible timeline course that has been an agenda item in the past but due to the pandemic had to be pulled. But the person running this course is now making it available for people to attend online but it would run on a Wednesday night which would then clash with the advent groups. Through discussion it was agreed that the advent course should be the priority for the parish and **PC** to find out if there is a plan to run the bible timeline course again in the future online.

6) Future agenda items

- What things can we do in the future to feed into these pathways? All members of the team to look out for courses that may be of interested to feedback to the team.
- Updates to the diagram created by PC

7) Date of next meeting – Wednesday January 13<sup>th</sup> 2021

8) Closing Prayer – Provided by FRW

Meeting closed at 21:00.