



Catholic Parish of Guildford

Minutes, Formation Team Meeting, Wednesday 21st April 2021

Attendees: Susie Ball, Zelma Braganza, Aseel Gilbert, Tina Nichols, Chris Richardson, Fr Roy Waters

Apologies: Sinclair Webster, Peter Charlwood

Circulation: as preceding plus Mgr. Tony Barry, Sandy Hunt (Parish Secretary), David Campbell (Mission Team), Yvonne Newman (Communications team), Tom Kinsella (Prayer team).

1) Welcome

The meeting opened with prayer

2) Apologies for Absence

Jan was not able to make the meeting and so Susie joined in her place, Sinclair and Peter also sent their apologies.

3) Minutes of previous meeting held on the 24th February.

Approved

4) Review of *Invited*

On the whole this course was well received. There was general agreement that the presentations had been good and the discussion sessions, after some initial organisational problems, had been enjoyed by those who had taken part. Zelma had acted as a facilitator for some of the sessions. Having the presentations on the website was an advantage as those who wanted were able to watch them again. The gap between the presentations and the discussion was not necessarily helpful. It was noted that after we had been discouraged from organising in house discussion groups the diocese decided, probably due to excess demand, to encourage parish based groups. Some parishioners would have preferred locally based groups, which provided greater connection to the local Church community. However, others valued the 'Diocesan dimension'.

5) Genesis to Jesus arrangements

It was reported that eighty people had signed up, forty for each of the sessions. This was as many as could be accommodated with ten facilitators, five for each session. There were a few technical problems (as a result of the ineptitude of a novice operator -*mea culpa*) but these were quickly resolved. Initial responses had been generally positive. Some participants had asked if there could be a summary of the videos and Chris is looking into

producing these. Others would like to see the video again but it was agreed that this was not really possible to arrange as it required another streaming slot. Participants will be advised that they can purchase access to the videos for a four month period for about £15 should they wish to do so. The link to this will be sent with the next communication to them.

6) **Forward Planning**

This was general discussion about possibilities as a precursor to future, more concrete, planning.

- There was some discussion about whether social distancing will still be necessary and what impact that might have going forward.
- There was general agreement that getting people together was an important element of formation and for some aspects such as RCIA it was regarded as essential.
- However, there had been a positive response to zoom sessions, which in some situations had allowed people to get to know each other more easily than in a crowded room. It was also accepted that some people found it easier to join zoom sessions after a busy day at work than to go to a meeting in a Church hall.
- It seems likely that even where courses are offered live there will also be a zoom alternative offered.
- We may want to consider broadening our offer and providing more academic courses with a suitably qualified leader brought in. These may only attract small numbers but that is not seen as a problem.
- It seems likely that the CCO courses will continue to feature as they had been an excellent source of new catechists.
- The 'Intentional Accompaniment' that underpins the CCO is also being developed by *Million Minutes* involving Danny Curtin and David Wells and Aseel has been invited to join the group. This will hopefully result in a clearer understanding of the approach and its wider dissemination.
- It was suggested that Alpha may play a part in any ongoing programme. The main benefits were seen in terms of introducing people to the faith and offering a supported path back for those who had drifted away.
- Small groups for other courses may also play a part. There was some support for developing Advent groups across the parish.

7) **Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be Wednesday 16th June at 7.00pm by zoom.

8) **Closing Prayer**

Fr Roy closed the meeting with a prayer and a blessing.