



Catholic Parish of Guildford

Minutes, Formation Team Meeting, Wednesday 14th July 2021

Attendees: Zelma Braganza, Peter Charlwood, Aseel Gilbert, Tina Nichols, Chris Richardson, Fr Roy Waters, Sinclair Webster,

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

1) Welcome

The meeting opened with prayer

2) Apologies for Absence

No apologies had been received.

3) Minutes of previous meeting held on the 21st April 2021.

Approved

4) Review of *Genesis to Jesus*

On the whole this had been well received although one of the younger groups did not feel that it met their needs or expectations. It is probably true to say that others also found that various expectations were not met but that there was still enough substance to make it worth continuing to attend. About 70 people attended most or all of the course. A number of contributors found that they were helped to make connections between elements of the Old Testament which had previously been read in isolation. One member noted that aspects of the course had helped her interpret relevant section of some homilies. A common criticism was the pace of the delivery in the videos which made it difficult to assimilate the information.

5) Forward Planning

- It was noted that Mgr. Tony had asked Aseel to include baptism preparation in her portfolio and had also indicated that the possibility of additional staffing for the Youth Ministry was being considered. In all the intention was for Aseel's role to be increasingly one of facilitation and less on direct delivery. With this in mind Discovery would run again in the autumn aimed mainly at potential catechists. At least two parents from the First Communion group had indicated a willingness to participate.
- In line with current Vatican and Diocesan proposals it was recognised that there was a need for catechists to be trained and to move away from using the term to refer to anyone who helped with sacramental preparation. This did not mean that individuals could not play their part in evangelising

spontaneously but rather that anyone who was going to accompany others intentionally should be trained to do so.

- The marriage preparation course had now been adopted by the Diocese and a good quality brochure produced, which was currently being funded by the Diocese. If it becomes necessary to pay for these at a later date then the cost will be recouped by asking for a donation. It was suggested that people are generally happy to pay for a quality publication. Congratulations were offered to those delivering the course on the recognition of their work. The next parish course will start in the autumn on Zoom although it is hoped that some face to face encounters can be held later in the year.
- Home groups will stop this summer and restart in September. Specifically for Home Groups they will make use of the Wild Goose material with its emphasis on the Holy Spirit from a catholic perspective. Some house sessions may resume but others will continue with Zoom.
- The Holy Father's synodality initiative will inevitably involve consultation across the parish. Dioceses will receive a preparatory document and questionnaire in September. The launch in dioceses is scheduled for 17th October 2021 and responses from the dioceses have to be collated and returned to the Bishops Conference for them to consolidate and sent to Rome by April 2022. This suggests a short period of parish discernment from the end of October into the beginning of December.
- Next year is also the Year of the Family but at present we have no indication from the Diocese about any involvement in this.
- There was renewed support for trying to develop an Advent small groups course across the parish. Chris will look at possible material including any diocesan course, and asked others who come across something that might be suitable to send it to him.
- RCIA will continue with 16 new candidates. Zoom sessions have gone down well and will continue to be a feature of the course. There is a need to develop some form of accompaniment that supports people once they have been received into the Church.
- Following on from our efforts to promote reading the Bible it was suggested that many people may benefit from guidance on how to do so and that offering a course to develop the use of Lectio Divina might be a useful way to do this.
- Another area suggested for future exploration is the distinctive yet complimentary Pauline and Petrine ministries.
- From what had gone before it was clear that Zoom would continue to play a significant role in formation even after COVID restrictions were lifted. It was noted that electronic communication was an everyday part of people's lives (particularly younger people) and so it seems right to embrace it.

6) Future Agenda items There was nothing in addition to what we had already discussed that members wanted added to the next agenda.

7) Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be Wednesday 8th September at 7.30 by Zoom.

8) Closing Prayer

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