



Catholic Parish of Guildford

Minutes, Formation Team Meeting, Wednesday 8th September 2021

Attendees: Zelma Braganza, Aseel Gilbert, 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 Peter Charlwood,

3) Minutes of previous meeting held on the 14th July 2021.

Approved

Arising from the minutes: Aseel confirmed that initial sign up for Discovery had been quite encouraging.

Chris had circulated some possible Advent courses in advance but the situation with the synod may well mean that we do not go ahead with this.

Fr Roy confirmed that RCIA was looking at accompaniment post reception. There are 19 candidates this year and the plan is to meet weekly via Zoom with a monthly in person meeting.

Zelma asked whether she could see the Marriage Preparation booklet that was mentioned last time and Fr Roy offered to lend her the copy from the presbytery.

4) Synod Pathway

- Chris had received confirmation that the Diocese anticipated the synod process would replace any Advent Courses. The Preparatory Documents for the synod had just become available and this has been circulated with the minutes.
- It is clear that Pope Francis wants lay participation and is calling for prayerful discernment.
- It was suggested that this was a move closer to the Orthodox synodal model.
- The Preparatory Document continues to unpack the relationship between the *sensus fidei* and the *Magisterium*.
- The synod will explore ways to be synodal, ways to make full use of the gifts of all the Baptised whilst maintaining the role of the Bishops as the guardians of the Tradition. Working through this will no doubt be part of the process.
- The document includes ten groups of questions for the parishes to explore.

- What became clear during the discussion was that the time allowed for this part of the process would not make full discussion across the parish a realistic proposition. This was regretted as discernment involved prayerful dialogue.
- The best we could do was to use an electronic questionnaire to gather opinions and collate these.
- It was suggested that the diocese might consider creating such a questionnaire, which would require careful preparation to avoid unintended bias. We could make use of SurveyMonkey used through our website.
- It was suggested that consideration be given to some kind of consultation meeting once the questionnaires had been collated and key findings established.
- It was noted, however, that this could lead to new insights that there might not be time to incorporate.
- It was suggested that we could join with the Deanery in this process. Representatives of each parish could come together.
- Chris was anxious that everyone should have an opportunity to express their views. Representatives often only represent their own views and those of their immediate friends. There is no mechanism for them to take the temperature of the parish as a whole.
- Aseel was concerned that the process would not reach the younger families whose views would benefit the process and the future of the Church. It was accepted that a questionnaire often included terminology that required further elaboration. It was also recognised that many of the younger families might not see the synod process as anything they wanted to engage with.
- However, Aseel also suggested that we should see the initial synodal process as something that could be of use to us as a parish and consider carrying on the conversation after the initial responses have been passed to the diocese.
- It was agreed that Chris would keep in touch with Mgr Tony and Fr Roy to discover the intentions of the Diocese after their planning committee meets tomorrow (9th Sept.). He will keep the committee informed,

5) Advent This item had been overtaken by the previous item.

6) Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be Wednesday 6th October at **7pm** via Zoom

7) Closing Prayer

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