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**St. Michael’s and St. Bernadette’s Parish Pastoral Team**

***Meeting Minutes***

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| **Meeting:** | Virtual Meeting 23 |
| **Date & Time:** | 06 April 2021 (8.15pm) |
| **Location:** | Zoom |

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| **Attendees:** |  |
| Clare Barnes (CB) | Andrea Reid (AR) Vice Chair |
| Laura Doyle (LD) | Jane Reynolds (JR) Secretary |
| Gillian Howarth (GH) | Sean Thorpe (ST) Chair |
| Benjamin Imafidion (BI) | Liz Sheader (LS) |
| Father Steven Parkinson (FrS) | Rachael Scully (RS) |
| Peter Purdue (PP) |  |
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| **Apologies** |  |
| Angela Still (AS) | Jules Greene (JG) |
| Claire Coleman (CC) |  |

**Minutes**

1. **Short prayer**

Especially remembering Angela and her family in our prayers.

1. **Matters Arising**

It was noted that daily Masses are becoming busier and the numbers are increasing with people who are returning to Mass for the first time.

Sacramental Programme Masses are ongoing. These represent the ‘sweep up’ of last year’s cohort and a further two Masses are booked in over the next few weeks.

1. **Celebrating the Easter Triduum - Reflection**

Celebrations went well and the booking system worked especially well. Particular thanks to Helen for the co-ordination of this and the wider team for accommodating everyone who wished to attend over the Triduum. Over 80 people attended the Churches on Good Friday for reflection. Widespread positive comments were received on the organisation of the events.

1. **Easter in the Community - Reflection and Next Steps**

A working group was created to move this activity forward. AR reported that the decorating of the Church doors went well, decorating Easter stones was also popular (good engagement theme). Candles in the windows for COVID (National Day of Reflection) were well supported. The next step is decorating the Church doors with flowers with the aim of trying to increase number of posts on Facebook to raise interest. The first anniversary of newsletters being delivered was noted and also the delivery of palms and cards were well received.

1. **2021 – A Year of Opportunity**

A discussion occurred around ways in which we can create a strategic plan which is impacted by what we expect for 2021. Many points were raised in answer to the questions posed:

* What has been lost during lockdown which must stay lost?
* What has been lost during lockdown which we must regain?
* What was ok/we are grateful for in this season but must be laid down?
* What has been gained that must be retained or developed?

Quite a number of ideas were generated and these will be revisited in future meetings. Team members are encouraged to reflect on these points and share ideas via WhatsApp or ahead of the next meeting.

1. **Any Other Business** (AOB)

An idea has been received around a competition for the school children. To be discussed next time.

(See amalgamated email below).

It may be just me but could this be something that would be interesting to the kids. It doesn't have to be a competition as such maybe it could be advertised as a contest, but was thinking about specifically in getting them to think about Jesus and develop their creativity too. We could also open it up to adults to see if we have any budding writers there too. Might have been better to do it during lockdown whilst people were still stuck at home but I think it would be really good to see what people can come up with, if it generates a lot of interest even look into putting them together in some sort of parish book.

I was at a training day at the cathedral. One of the things that was referred to was the way that our faith should permeate every aspect of a child's life while they are at school. Also the importance  of this taking root given the fact that the majority of kids when they leave school will not have such a continuing influence in their daily lives. It got me thinking about what we do within the parish to engage and involve kids outside of  school and/or them participating in weekend ministries and the sacramental programmes.

I had an idea that we could ask the children in the parish to get involved in something like a story writing competition. (whether competition is the right word or not I don't know). We could ask them to do it for lent and maybe have a prize as an Easter egg something like that for the best piece (We can decide on how to decide later?). Given that there are no limits to the children's imagination, I think it would be really exciting to see where they go and what they come up with to encourage their creativity and curiosity in a religious context.

We can ask them to write a story about meeting Jesus, to write about where they meet him and what he says to them and what they do or where they go. Doesnt have to be linked to Easter. Maybe we could promote it through the schools to try to get more involved as well. If we get a good response we could possibly put them all into a little booklet to promote the children's creativity.

We could also open it to everyone in the parish we might get something from kids that are in high school so maybe we could have more than one category (by age) open it up a bit and even also get the very big kids (ie. adults) to have a go as well we may have some budding authors in the parish that we don't know about. If we go ahead with it I would be really interested in reading the entries and helping out. Practicality wise, it doesn't need much planning at all, we would just need to draft something for the newsletter and email the heads at the schools to see if they would support it.. then just wait to see what comes in. If we are giving a prize all we would have to do is get something... so if we want to use easter as a good time to get them to do it during lent an easter egg might be sufficient but if that is the case we would need to act quickly!

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 4 May 2021, 8.15pm**