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

***Meeting Minutes***

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| **Meeting:** | Monthly Meeting |
| **Date & Time:** | 07 April 2022 |
| **Location:** | St Bernadette’s |

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| **Attendees:** |  |
| Clare Barnes (CB) | Andrea Reid (AR) – Chair |
| Laura Doyle (LD) | Angela Still (AS) |
| Gillian Howarth (GH) | Kirsty Seaborn (KS) |
| Helen Sivills (HS) |  |
| Father Steven Parkinson (FrS) |  |
| Julie Greene (JG) |  |
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1. **Short prayer**
2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were recorded for Sean Thorpe, Liz Sheader, Claire Colman, Rachael Scully and Amila Thomas.

1. **Matters Arising**

* Church Attendance continues to improve, notably on Sundays. Midweek Masses attendance remains steady, although Wednesday and Friday attendance is more variable. The Weekday Mass schedule may change as/when Fr Samson moves on.
* The Deanery Mass(es) were considered a great success and enjoyed by all.
  + We will look to co-ordinate transport in the future.
* Prayer for Peace proved a resounding success with Parishioners welcoming the opportunity and PPT welcoming the engagement, actions, and benefits from it.
  + Superb example of a speedy and meaningful response to Parish need.
  + Attracted interest and support from across the Parish
  + Young Families especially involved
  + Generosity of financial support overall (c.£5000)
* Opportunity to complete Prayer for Peace at St Michael’s will be reviewed at next meeting.
* Interest expressed at welcoming any Ukrainian Refugee families into our Parish
  + Reach out to CARITAS for update/information
  + Seek opportunities for Community support
  + Initiate/contribute to a support programme offering expertise and connectivity to Ukrainian families as they settle e.g., legal, social, transport, additional practical elements.

1. **Easter Preparations**

* Seeking to re-introduce Washing of the Feet etc but high awareness in Diocese regarding enduring cautiousness amongst (older) Parishioners resisting active participations- for example, the Choir in Urmston and Flixton has had only 2 members return.
* Fr S will seek to encourage participation and engagement across the Parish and invite volunteers across forthcoming Masses for Reading and other involvement.
* The Crucifix will be removed until the start of the Easter Vigil.
* Easter Vigil Firestarters are engaged.
* Social Media will promote sharing of Palm Sunday Door Decorations.

1. **Finance Committee Re-introduction**

* Fr S is seeking to re-establish the Finance Committee and attract new members in line with the Constitution.
* Helen (Parish Office) and Fr S will contact the incumbent Committee Members for status report and initiate the convening of a new Committee- retaining 2-3 original members to ensure a smooth handover- timings of late May/early June are anticipated.
* Attracting “new face” Parishioners to encourage wider participation is prioritised, with involvement expected to include attendance at quarterly meetings.
* No major issues are facing the Committee.

1. **Links across the Deanery**

* The PPT are keen to learn and share good practice regarding PPT and similar groups throughout the Deanery and strengthen connectivity.
* Fr S noted that on raising this at a recent Deanery meeting, Parish pressures inhibited interest and support at this time e.g., several Parishes are struggling to engage Readers etc.
* Nonetheless, in keeping with the Synod, the PPT will seek to connect with our neighbourhood Parishes of O.L.O.G and St Mary’s.
* Furthermore, Lisa Lalley (St Joseph’s, Ramsbottom) was identified as a great contact to help improve connectivity. AS shared knowledge regarding the desperate need St Joseph’s is in regarding Community Meeting Room space. Consulting with Siobhan Wolf, LD will establish contact with Lisa, as Fr S can offer space and will also seek to build connections with St Joseph’s.

1. **Newsletter Update**

* This remains a priority and we will seek to make progress in updating communication styles, formats, and channels

1. **Youth Projects**

* Engaging the youth of the Parish also remains a priority.
* AR will investigate Lottery funding opportunities to help support initiatives which might engage the youth (the over 50s was also identified as an audience to support)
* Recent attempts by Sister Linda to repeat the success of a Confirmation Candidate Group (from 2021) attracted interest of 10-12 young people (vs 50)
* Whilst Sister Linda was disappointed, it was agreed the interest of the 10-12 was something we could build on- connecting with those participants will help us understand what drives their interest, how we can best meet their needs and how we might reach out to others.
* Fr S will meet with Sister Linda to review and the PPT will seek to ensure we can provide an environment for the interested young people to gather for Liturgy and socially.
* Activities utilising the skills of Parishioners which might appeal to the YP will be investigated- Thai Boxing, Musicians, DJ/Mixing were all suggested.
* Lisa Lalley was again identified as a great contact to explore opportunities to engage the YP of the Parish.
* News of the 150 Confirmation Candidates from St Monica’s was greeted enthusiastically and the re-energised approach of the SLT at the school is something we will look to build on and support.

1. **AOB**

* Sadly, we were reminded of the importance of security alertness in Mass following the recent attempted handbag snatch at 6pm Mass at St Bernadette’s.

**Next Meeting- NOTE CHANGE OF DAY**

* WEDNESDAY 11 May at St Michael’s (Archangel Room)
* Agenda Items include
* International Mass planning
* Relaunching the Newsletter.
* Youth Engagement Update.