

St. Teilo's with Our Lady of Lourdes
Parish Pastoral Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday October 4th
2022 At 7:00pm in the Parish Hall

PRESENT

Canon John Griffiths - President
Carole Burns - Chair
Anthony Evans. - Secretary

Jo Hudson Claude Bulai
Madeleine Walters Gill Kane
Angela Jones Joanne White (Archdiocese)

ACTIONS

Agreed Actions:

Carole -Explore Diocese Support

Madeleine - Evangelisation Plan
for the parish

Gill - Food-bank Launch

Apologies: Gerry Lewis/ Paul Doherty / David Roblin /Peter Searle/ Clare Gallagher/Marcia Fortner

1. Opening Prayer - Fr. John

Canon John welcomed the attendees to the meeting and began the meeting with an opening prayer. An initial introduction was given for Jo the Diocesan Family Representative. Fr. John invited Jo to give an introduction about her work to the team.

2. Introduction by Joanne White - Marriage & Family Life Co-ordinator

Joanne introduced herself as the Diocesan Representative supporting parishes in their work and activities in providing marriage preparation, support and counselling services.

Joanne confirmed that she had an initial discussion some weeks ago with Carole and Gill about the Diocesan services, and today was about explaining how she could assist the parish. Emphasising that her service was about helping to shape what we want, rather than impose on the parish what the Diocese views as norms or patterns. She is here to share what seems to work well and assist us in improving upon what we already do.

Additional areas discussed:

- Help the parish in supporting and assisting with her guidance, also mentioning that there were additional resources/support within the Diocesan team. These members would also be available to guide the parish

Also:

- Help us to build on what we have in place and improve where needed
- There seems to be a greater need for counselling within the church (but few councillors)
- Focus on Family Life and sustaining people in faith
- The need to give people a good experience whilst at church
- Elderly / Grand parents groups / dropping nans off to church type activities

Fr. John shared information about his previous experience of working with Joanne. And reiterated that we are simply sowing seeds for others.

Fr John - Commented that the First Communion Mass was a wonderful occasion with large numbers and a great atmosphere. The kind of experience we want to maintain.

2. Continued - Introduction by Joanne White - Marriage & Family Life Co-ordinator

Fr John continued to give insights into his vision for this area of the parish work. He mentioned that we lived in a very post Christian society where parents are not bringing their children to church.

Joanne - Many parents themselves are infant in their faith - the children reflect their parents faith.

Fr. John discussed the opportunity that had arisen to engage children at a local school in Gabalfa - this is opposite to Our lady of Lourdes Church

Fr. John highlighted that he would like someone within the parish to co-ordinate marriage preparation,

Joanne - An example of what works well in terms of Marriage Care - Couples are accompanied by other married couples. Invite couples to events - build up relationships and bring them together.

Gill - Asked if there was a structured Diocesan Programme?

Joanne - The programme involves planning with the parish to develop what vision/plan the parish has for its individual growth. Joanne's role is to share best practice and act as a consultative voice.

Anthony - Acknowledged that his own experience of Joanne's work with the Marriage anniversary events was very positive. Also, he mentioned that the video and media follow ups that Joanne had published online were very good in quality

Carole - introduced the topic of Bereavement, and how this really was an element of the family life in terms of assisting people during this difficult time - the parish has started a small group.

Gill mentions - that much of this is tying in with our Synod emerging themes - and that it is important that we continue the focus here. The children element being very important

Joanne - Asked if we had many children attending Mass?

Angela - Responded - 'Not many but we are seeing numbers fluctuating up and down - Its early to say, but we need to continue to work on activities'.

Joanne - Don't give up, even if there is only a handful.

Gill - Mentioned about the Gabalfa school engagement and how it may help

Joanne - Re-iterated that the services provided were to support the parish plan and that there were many untapped resources within the Diocese that the parish may want to explore - it is surprising what assistance is available if you ask...

Angela - Mentioned that we did not have a parish plan

Joanne - We can advise and make suggestions to help.

3. Ratification of the minutes taken for the previous meeting

Carole raised previous minutes and acknowledged that amendments were submitted by email.

Anthony confirmed that the changes requested and received by email would be added.

Madeleine acknowledged that her edits were forwarded, and highlighted to Anthony about some additional typos/errors would be needed to be addressed - Anthony acknowledged that he was aware.

4. Reaching Out Project Updates:

Gill shared that she and Chris Llewelyn Jones had together recently visited the Gabalfa school, and that the visit was very productive in that the head teacher indicated a willingness to have the children participate within the parish community in some way.

Gill read out a letter from Chris (The Committee Lead) addressing the team about the outreach activities re-enforcing Gill's feedback.

Angela - Reminded the council that Peter Curran will be assisting with the financial elements - He will be co-ordinating the finance and funding for the Outreach activity.

Gill - Provided information about the 'Hub Project' within the Gabalfa Community. How the parish can align itself with the community services, and what a great source of support that this would be for parishioners:

- Housing and Benefits advice
- Citizens advice for wider support
- Disability Information & Support
- General Services and Wellbeing
- Potential Screening /Refreshments and activities
- Opportunity to have heating rooms

Jo - Asked if they offered transport too? Gill will find out

Gill also mentioned about a Wrap Around Care Project, and how we could signposts this within the parish as a supporting service - posters etc.

Jo - Mentioned maybe we could share some of these services with the parish

Anthony - commented that it sounded very good and all that it needed was a church and it would be the place to go
- He also asked if St Teilo's could make use of the Hall to facilitate/share some of the activity

Fr. John mentioned that the regulations were so tight that it made it difficult to do many of these activities in our Hall.

Joanne - There are certain films we are able to watch on the screen - further investigation needed

Gill - agreed that we could try a shared basis - further exploring to be done

Foodbank

Gill informed the team that two additional partitioners had joined the food-bank team (Yvonne/Antoinette) to help with driving and deliveries.

Claude - Offered to provide Gill with contact information for organisation who may donate food and will advise Gill if he can think of anything else to help with food donations.

Gill - The food bank will be officially launched at the beginning of November at the parish.

Joanne - mentioned that the parish was very much ahead of where most others were and that she was very impressed.

Fr. John - Suggested that a report of the fruitful activities be shared with the Diocesan Magazine (Catholic People)

Other Diocesan Services

Joanne - Mentioned that there were Networking events with other parishes which would be useful to attend. Also, online events which would soon be available. In addition re-emphasised the need to speak with contacts at the Diocese who can prove to be very useful

Carole - Will explore with Joanne and the Diocese the services available

5. Evangelisation

Madeleine provided an update to the team about her recent meeting with the Archbishop, and the outcomes:

- Madeleine provided the Archbishop with the history of the Diocese Evangelisation since 2011
- Explaining that the evangelisation department was initially small and how it has grown
- Additional activities up-to the point where Madeleine was made Director of Evangelisation (2019)

Other initiatives were discussed including the Night-fever Diocesan project.

Madeleine mentioned that the Archbishop had no intentions of making changes during the first year.. His intention was to listen, observe, and see the lay of the land.

Gill - Asked Madeleine about her intentions for evangelisation at the parish, what this would look like and when would this commence?

Madeleine - said that now that we know where the Archbishop stands, we can now begin to continue our own work — It was important that we understand his vision, being that he is very much at the centre of church policy, when it comes to evangelisation. Madeleine will now continue to work on a plan for the parish.

6. Finance

Information had been emailed to the team - Apologies provided by Peter

7. Health & Safety

Information had been emailed to the team - Apologies provided by Paul

8. Safeguarding

No information to report - Apologies provided by Gerry

9. Fr. John's feedback from the Lourdes trip

Fr John shared his experience as the pilgrimage Spiritual Guide and how humbling it was to see how people in less that satisfactory circumstances were so concerned about others.

10. AOB

Angela - Provided update on the Children's Liturgy - 4 weeks in, and current numbers of children have ranged between 2 and 9 - Will continue to work on this.

Carole - Lots of knitting and blankets coming in - Good activity and support here

Anthony - Concerned about parishioners outside receiving communion due to being sick or housebound - Asked if more focus could be provided to ensure that we are identifying sickness and sharing with the team.

Fr. John - We can have a meeting about this - Meeting arranged for later in the month.

Claude - Updated the team on the Cathedral Choir - Agreed to continue to explore

Fr. John - responded - Might be worth engaging with the Gabalfa school children - a reason to include them

Carole - Social is progressing - Further updates will follow

Angela - Mentioned about having notice of Council meeting more in advance

11. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 16th November 2022 - 7:00pm

12.. Closing prayer from Fr. John