**Parish of St Francis, Ascot**

**Parish Pastoral Council**

**6th February 2018**

Minutes

Present: Father Kevin

Sue Roche

Philip MacDonald

Kate Camp

Tony Berkeley

Paul Worthington

Dermot Briody

Anne Scowcroft

**Gospel reading and formation**

* Fr Kevin read the Old Testament reading from Leviticus and this week’s Gospel on the theme of unclean/clean

**Main Item (How to introduce/circulate new media resources in the Parish)**

* Council watched short film on this coming Sunday’s readings on unclean/clean theme on the website formed.org
* PMacD explained that formed.org is an American-produced subscription website with a vast range of regularly updated resources, that can be accessed on an individual or a parish level. The site can be used free for the first 7 days on signing up, which gives an opportunity to review the material available, then the subscription can be cancelled to avoid payments.
* KC suggested a link could be sent round weekly to as many of the Parish as we have email addresses for, to enable parishioners to watch in their own time at home in advance of the Sunday service. These bitesize, relevant presentations could be a powerful way to increase existing parishioners’ engagement and understanding.
* FrK suggested inviting parishioners to a weekly screening of such presentations, but acknowledged that this would limit the audience.
* Council discussed using this resource to appeal to the younger element of the parish (up to 30yrs). SR suggested the Matthew Kelly resources already used for confirmation candidates also worth reviewing.
* PW suggested circulating a link as an experiment over Lent, although FrK said it may be too late to include it in this year’s Lenten programme
* KC confirmed that when parishioners register we do capture their email address and would have permission to contact them in this way.
* KC suggested taking a more strategic approach to digital communications in the Parish, so to develop a plan for which sections of the community we want to target and which channels/message/resources would best reach them.
* AS highlighted the opportunity of reaching parents/families returning to the church as their children come for communion or confirmation, and developing their involvement and understanding.
* FrK emphasised the link to the Bishop’s letter, looking for ways to evangelise starting with our own community. Requested that council subscribes for the free 7 day period to review formed.org and forwards thoughts to him over the next couple of weeks. **All**

**Parish Priest’s report**

* Fr Kevin circulated draft report to the Parish of his first year in post., including a summary of Parish accounts.
* Fr K asked whether the review of accounts was worth publishing. All agreed it was, to demonstrate transparency.
* TB highlighted the need for a representation to the Parish on finances to boost Gift Aid, standing orders and increase understanding of the funding/church maintenance requirements.
* Council to review annual report and accounts and provide any feedback to FrK in the next couple of weeks to allow publication mid-Lent **All**

**Parish Groups**

* AS circulated list of parish groups as a starting point for review
* SR to co ordinate updating with current contacts
* Council to reflect on what groups need to be added to this beyond the operational (UCM, SVP etc) and how these might best be organised.
* TB highlighted need for a maintenance team to call on for practical jobs eg. Putting up scaffolding etc **All**

**AOB**

* Fr K updated Council that the appointment of a Youth Minister on a Pastoral Area level is unlikely. Suggested first step would be to appoint a Young People’s liaison officer to co ordinate and publicise relevant information and events
* Next meeting arranged for 24th April 2018 at 7.30pm **All**

**Concluding Prayer and Blessing**