

**Parish of St Francis, Ascot
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
18th November 2019**

MINUTES

Present: Father Kevin ✓ (FrK)
Sue Roche ✗ (SR)
Tony Berkeley ✓ (TB)
Kate Camp ✓ (KC)
Jonathan Kasinski ✗ (JK)
Paul Worthington ✗ (PW)
Tom Cornish ✓ (TC)
Erin Conté ✗ (EC)
Mary Looney (on behalf of bereavement group) (ML)

Apologies: Philip MacDonald

1. Fr Kevin opened the meeting with the Gospel reading for the feast of Christ the King and reflected on the theme of Jesus' self-giving love and the depiction of his death on the cross as both victim and victor.

2. **Minutes** Approved from the last meeting

3. **Parish Priest's report**

FR K reflected on a successful celebration of the Parish 130th Anniversary. Particularly noted was the range of people attending over the weekend's events and the positive coverage in the Ascot news and on the Portsmouth diocese e-news. FrK offered his thanks to all involved in the organisation and running of the celebrations.

The question was raised as to how well we publicise the parish in the local area, with a discussion around producing a quarterly newsletter/magazine to highlight the many activities, events and groups.

FrK observed the many funeral masses that have taken place over recent weeks, which has been a busy period.

Looking forward, the programme of Christmas masses and a reconciliation service is in place.

4. Bereavement Group. ML outlined all of the work done by the bereavement group to support bereaved families in the parish (full notes attached). The council members acknowledged the value of this and there was some discussion about the scope of the group (ie. Could it be renamed 'outreach' and encompass visits to the sick and housebound or would this be too broad and are the bereaved better served by a dedicated group?). ML looked forward to growing and further developing the group in discussion with FrK in the New Year. **ML/FrK**

5. Year of the Bible. FrK outlined that this is a two-year programme initiated by the Bishop (also known as the Year of the Scriptures or Word) reflecting on and better understanding this as the basis for what we believe. There was discussion around council members' different experiences of Catholic education on the scriptures, from those attending non-Catholic secondary schools, RCIA etc, those teaching within Catholic education etc. The diocese has produced a range of resources to be used in this programme which are on the Portsmouth diocese e-newsletter/website. Council members to review these resources before the next meeting **All**

6. Parish Finance report TB suggested that it is time to publish the annual Finance report alongside the Parish priest's report. This would enable parishioners to appreciate the maintenance needs of the parish and to see where the money is spent.

7. Next meeting: Dates for forthcoming meetings to be proposed **PMcD**

The meeting closed with a Prayer.