

**Parish of St Francis, Ascot
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
25th February 2020**

MINUTES

Present: Father Kevin (FrK)
Philip MacDonald (PMacD)
Tony Berkeley (TB)
Kate Camp (KC)
Tom Cornish (TC)

Apologies: Jonathan Kasinski (JK)
Paul Worthington (PW)
Erin Conte (EC)
Sue Roche (SR)

1. Fr Kevin opened the meeting with the Gospel of the Temptation of Christ from St Matthew.

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

3. **Parish Priest's report**

Fr K reflected on a very successful celebration honouring Our Lady of Fatima, noting there were people in the church all day. Fr K gave credit to TB/Knights of St Columba for organising the event so successfully.

TB registered the opportunity to commemorate the six appearances of Our Lady starting in May.

Throughout Lent devotions and Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays and Wednesday evenings at 7.30.

TC highlighted the appeal of the regular midweek evening Mass and its possible appeal to a broader, adult group in search of 'mindfulness'.

FrK noted that the RCIA candidates would be attending the Rite of Election at Portsmouth cathedral this Saturday 29th February in advance of their baptism at the Easter Vigil mass. There are two candidates from our Parish.

FrK noted he will again conduct a childrens' Stations of the Cross at 12 noon on Good Friday. The suggested age range for this could be highlighted in the newsletter.

Lent will see the introduction of the Lectio Divina series of meetings to read, reflect on and react to the scriptures. The hope is that the momentum from this and the introduction to the 'method' will lead into a group or two continuing to meet in each others' homes. These 'house groups' would operate much like book clubs with a relaxed and sociable atmosphere. PMcD noted that he had seen this operating successfully in another Parish.

FrK is now a Governor at St Bernard's school in Slough.

4. Health & Safety

Coronavirus update: Fr K said the Parish has been operating under the latest recommendations from the diocese. It was noted that the Parish would be alert to further updates along with the importance of ensuring consistency with other Parishes in the Pastoral area. This may involve limiting the taking of the chalice.

Fr K reported on the successful evacuation at the fire drill at the Sunday mass. The Saturday evening mass drill will take place when the weather is a little better.

TB updated the council that the Parish has been audited by external H&S auditors. The actions from this will be overseen and implemented under the finance group. Stephen Poulston to be invited to the next finance group to facilitate this.

5. Year of the Bible.

Initiatives to support this:

Lectio Divina series/house groups

PMcD highlighted an insert reflecting on the readings each week, used in another parish with a brief commentary drawn from the Jerusalem Bible. It was agreed that although there are vast resources online to explore scripture, it was most effective to deliver it to parishioners rather than expect them to seek it out and to encourage such reflection at the moment immediately after the mass to maximise engagement.

It was discussed that FrK might give a short summary to introduce each reading at mass and set the context.

6. Next meeting: Dates for forthcoming meeting in early May to be proposed by PMcD

The meeting closed with a Prayer.

