**Parish of St Francis of Assisi, Ascot**

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**

**5th February 2019**

**MINUTES**

**Present** Father Kevin

Philip MacDonald (Chair)

Ann Scowcroft

Sue Roche

Tony Berkeley

Kate Camp

**Apologies** Jonathan Kasinski

**Not present** Paul Worthington (absent through illness)

Dermot Briody

**1) Gospel Reading and Formation**

* **Fr K** presented the gospel of Luke and the group reflected on the fishing analogy.

**2) Minutes: matters arising**

* Clarification: Minutes from the previous PPC meeting were approved and posted on the noticeboard.
* The date of dedication for the new window has not yet been set, therefore **PMcD** cannot yet contact the Bishop’s office to extend an invitation.

**3) Parish Priest’s report**

* **FrK** reported satisfaction with how the Christmas period went. The two Masses on Christmas day were well attended. The plan is to continue with this format on Easter Sunday, but to have some more time between the Masses to turnaround. It was agreed that the times would be 9am and 11am.
* **Fr K** highlighted the Lent programme of talks on the four gospels. The penitential service are to be finalised and Holy Week will follow the same format as in previous years..
* The date for Confirmation is set for Sunday 30th June, which is the feast of St Peter and St Paul. We are sharing this date with a parish in Winchester. There will be another round of Confirmations next year, which will then bring us in line with other Parishes in the Pastoral Area on a two-yearly rotation. There is the intention of bringing together all the young people preparing for Confirmation in the Parishes of the Pastoral area two or three times during the course of the programme.
* **Fr K** reported a good working relationship was being established with the new Head of School at St Francis school, who is also preparing to become a Eucharistic Minister. Preparations are in hand for an Ash Wednesday Mass at 10am, a school AshWednesday service at 11.30am, and evening Mass at 7.30pm.
* **Fr K** highlighted that Monday 11th Feb was the Worldwide Day of Prayer for the sick. This would start with an 8am Mass, followed by half hour periods to say the Rosary as a way to show our concern for the sick as well as for healthcare professionals.
* There is a new leader of the UCM, Bridget Barrott-Chambers.
* **Fr K** raised the question of whether there was currently a role for a liturgy group, to help to plan the format for penitential services, symbolic diplays etc (not Mass). **KC** suggested that the planned Parish celebration might be an opportunity to canvas opinion on this and see whether Parishioners would be interested in this.
* **AS** mentioned that the Bidding Prayer group is not on the website.

**4) Little Franciscans update**

* **SR** reported that the group is flourishing, with around 10 children/8families attending on a regular basis.
* A risk assessment has taken place which has highlighted a training need for paediatric first aid and a safeguarding update for all helpers. **SR** to arrange.
* **TB** to check with the Parish insurance company to confirm the group is covered.
* The council passed its congratulations and thanks to **SR** and her daughter Beth for establishing such a successful group.

**5) Parish Celebration** *(paper circulated with agenda)*

* Council discussed running a weekend of events, from Friday 4th-Sunday 6th October.
* This would start with a party/celebration on Friday, 6.45-8pm approx. with refreshments. **PMcD** to check whether the school hall is available on this date. All Parish groups would be invited to present their work/activities with a display and representatives.
* The Saturday evening there could be a screening of a film of the life of St Francis after the evening Mass.
* Sunday could finish the 10am Mass with a cake to mark the Patronal feast.
* Council members to start to approach parish groups to sound out their support for this and prompt them to start gathering material eg. Photographs for their display.
* **KC** suggested that when it comes to inviting Parishioners it might be worth identifying newcomers/recently baptized/recent first holy communicants and sending them a personal invitation.

**6) Training for Parish Volunteers**

* **SR** reported need for updated safeguarding training. **JW** (parish safeguarding officer) to coordinate to get Diocesan trainers here and offer an open invitation to other parishes to join the session. **SR** to come back with a date.
* Paediatric First Aid training identified as a gap in Little Franciscan’s risk assessment, as above.

**7) A.O.B.**

* **AS** raised the question of using or acquiring wedding kneelers (the current set does not match)
* **FrK** chooses not to use these in wedding services, so there is no need to address

**8) Next meetings**

* Tuesday 23rd April: PPC meeting
* Tuesday 14th May: Meeting to plan Parish Celebration
* June meeting tbc