

Parish Forum Meeting

7.00pm 4 March 2021

The meeting started with a prayer with 16 participants on 13 screens

There were several apologies due to other meetings taking place

Feedback from parishioners following the last Forum meeting indicated the following priorities:

- Involving younger parishioners (A very high priority mentioned by everyone involved)
- Ecology outreach
- Further building on Parish/Home/School links
- Building Bereavement Support

Discussion points

Young people

- Pre pandemic, there were good numbers of younger people attending the Uniformed Groups and the Children's Liturgy
- What do we provide for teenagers and young adults?
- Could the older Parishioners form links with the young? Maybe SVP links
- Could we establish a YCW group and invite a leader from another Parish to give a talk in Churches, High School, 6th Form Colleges?
- Could we develop a Youth Forum?
- Could we involve more younger Parishioners in the Lourdes Pilgrimage?
- Could we run an Alpha Course for young people?
- Could we develop the scope of the uniformed sections?
- Could the High School be involved in the Liturgy, CAFOD, Junior SVP visits to Care Homes eg Kenyon Lodge? Maybe start with a pupil questionnaire in the High School
- Could we encourage young people to come to the African Mass at OLLM and post pandemic to socialise together in the Parish Hall?
- The Confirmation group is based on the Y8 group at Ambrose Barlow with sessions on Zoom. This is run by Sister Anna who is employed by the Deanery. Her role will expand to provide links between the 3 High Schools and their Parishes. Sister Anna plans to use this year's cohort as catechists
- Historically, Church and Community had links through sports. Is this still possible?
- Some young people reconnect with Faith while at University. How do University Chaplaincies manage this? Is the Holy Name Church still a hub?
- Children love the School Masses but don't come to church
- Parents need to be encouraged to bring their children to church

- One Mass a month could be especially for young people with them inviting their parents to come along

We need to be positive. Pre-pandemic, on average, 550 people attended Mass each week

Ecology outreach

- The Primary Schools have been involved in environmental projects through Laudato Si. Could we now do more to bring the groups from school and their work into church to share with the whole Parish?
- We need the parents of these children to come with them. Hopefully, some of the 'lost generation' of parents will re-engage with church
- The Pope and more locally Bishop John are inspirational speakers on the environment. Could Bishop John and other speakers be invited into the schools and 6th Form Colleges?
- Dr Emma Gardner, a former pupil at St. Edmund's and St George's, is Environmental Director for the Diocese. She is an inspirational speaker, giving talks on BBC Radio and we look forward to her work with our young people

Lay Leadership and Home/School/Parish links

- Some places on the team have been vacated. Suitable people can be found to fill the gaps
- We need to provide a coherent vision with an inclusive and broad perspective
- One suggestion was to establish a parents group solely to liaise with other parents/carers using maybe a WhatsApp group and face to face in the playgrounds of the schools

Bereavement Support Group

- Pre-funeral involvement would need further development and training
- Before drop-in session can be planned, the group needs to be able to get together themselves
- It might be useful to send out a questionnaire asking what support people would like from a Bereavement Group. Previous attempts to develop a support group were unsuccessful

Suggestions from the Parish Leadership Team

- Communications
- How can we market ourselves as a living, vibrant community?
- Community Facebook Groups could give us a different audience. Maybe a parish social media group would not be viable but we could use Worsley, Walkden and Little Hulton Community pages to publicise Masses and events, and demonstrate that we are open and we are inclusive and welcoming (poster/banner for outside churches)

The meeting finished with a prayer at 8.05pm

Next meeting - 7pm Thursday 18 March on Zoom with John Griffin