



NOTES FROM THE PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 5th November 2017

Welcome and apologies. John welcomed new member Paul Holland to his first meeting. No apologies were given as all members were present.

Prayers and reflection: presented by Norma. **Notetaking** by Naomi.

Items from 7th October meeting:

- The Samaritan's Purse boxes uptake has been limited this year and some have noted that the suggested postage has seen a significant rise. Next year Blythswood Care boxes will be supported.
- The choir have taken note of the request to remain seated for the offertory hymn on Sundays when seated in the body of the church and this has met with positive responses from the congregation.

Items from the Parish Priest

- Following receipt of planning permission for the proposed Church development project, Father Paul has reluctantly decided to slow the implementation of the main development work due to the demands of his other commitments in the Parish and Diocese. This was discussed at some length and several of the PPC were asked to offer their thoughts to the wording for a notice for the Newsletter.
- Father Paul asked NH to say a few words about the Sacramental Review outlining discussions that had taken place at the meeting on Wednesday 23rd August.
 - Baptism preparation continues to be taken on by Father Paul with the Parish Pastoral Assistant providing 'follow up' support after the sacrament.
 - FHC programme is taking a break this year to recruit and train more catechists. Four training sessions are being offered to prospective catechists through the Diocese.
 - Five candidates have come forward for confirmation and will follow the Diocesan programme 'Transformed in Christ'. The bishop will be visiting the parish on 24th June to confirm our candidates.
 - Ongoing evangelisation of the parish is being considered including ourselves, the lapsed and those who do not know Jesus. Consideration will be given to running an Alpha or similar course in the parish.
- Father Paul asked for feedback about the low lighting used for the All Saints Vigil Mass and all agreed that it added substantially to the atmosphere and tangible prayerful silences.

PPC Chairperson

By 1st February 2018 the Chairperson of the PPC will have to stand down in accordance with the current constitution. Father Paul thanked the PPC members for their responses to his email. Particular thanks were given to JW as he has offered to take on the role. There will be a time of 'handing over' and sincere thanks were given to JL for the support that he has dedicated to the role over the past six years.

Any Other Business

- MO asked if the Parish would like to organise a visit to the passion play in Oberammergau in 2020. There is a need for someone to co-ordinate this possibly through 'Norman Allen'. A note will be go in the Newsletter.
- CG to find out from EDDC about the availability of graves for Catholics in Sidmouth cemetery.
- It was requested that all members of the PPC should be present at the next meeting in order for a photo to be taken for display in the locked cabinet in the Church porch.

Date and time of next meeting was confirmed as Saturday 6th January at 10am in St Teresa's Hall.

PH volunteered to take the prayers/reflection and AT to take the notes.