

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH LEADERSHIP GROUP

MINUTES of meeting held 7.00 pm Wednesday 24th April 2019

Present - Fr Peter, Peter Newsham, Wendy Smith, Jackie Stopyra, Maureen Hefferan, Sue Thompson, Denise Patterson

Apologies – John Kilshaw, Ian Mulholland, Louise Baron,

Opening Prayer – led by Wendy

Minutes – 16th January 2019 - Accepted as true record.

Agenda Items

- 1) The meeting began with a visit to see the inside of the new building which is on track for opening soon after Easter. Interior decoration is beginning soon, and the choice of carpet and blinds will be decided soon.
- 2) Deacon John has stood down for health reasons – We offer him our thanks for his years of service and wish him well
- 3) Responses to Parish Questionnaire – There were 34 responses which we looked at under the following headings to draw up lists of ideas for future action
 - a. Communication
 - i. Leaflets from SVP are left out at back of Church, but more frequent news and information would be welcome
 - ii. We could pick a parish charity to support during the year – link with school's chosen charity
 - iii. We need to update the website to make it more mobile friendly. The current one may have limited bandwidth, so this is an area where we may need to spend some money.
 - iv. Newsletter/magazine, say, 3 times a year possibly to be distributed in the community not just the parish. Pay a delivery company to get it out.
 - v. Parish directory needed
 - vi. Display photos of deceased – maybe use the orders of service from funeral with permission.
 - vii. Parish meetings, say once or twice a year – parish business plus some food – to allow for social time together
 - viii. Maybe put a questionnaire out through school to get views of what parents want from the parish
 - ix. More links with Holy Family Parish through joint services and events
 - x. Need two people for Churches Together – but meeting times during the day are an issue preventing some from taking on this role
 - xi. Greeters at Mass– a couple of people at each Mass act as greeters as well as Maureen and Wendy at the shop. Possibly involve young people, or families on a rota basis. It would be useful to hand out everything that is needed for Mass – hymn books, mass leaflets, special music as well as the newsletter
 - xii. Have an occasional service or social event where we use name tags to help people get to know each other's names

- xiii. Newsletter after PLG – to let parishioners hear about matters discussed and decisions made

b. Outreach/Social

- i. Group get-togethers – for examples for families of recently baptized, or newly married
- ii. Would Terry Mattinson want to use the building for a youth group?
- iii. Regular coffee mornings after Mass, particularly on special occasions
- iv. More social events – we need a social committee
- v. Events should cater for different age groups
- vi. Drop in sessions – eg bereavement, elderly, others
- vii. Use Church for different displays to reflect the liturgical seasons
- viii. Group fundraising for a charity to be promoted more

c. Education

Noting that Christ's command to his Church was to "make disciples" or life-long learners we would propose to put on a variety of events and opportunities that would nurture the faith and spiritual life of parishioners at all stages and not limited to sacramental preparation. We should consider paying for speakers or group leaders as required. Types of sessions could include

- i. Bible study sessions
- ii. Prayer or meditation sessions
- iii. Week of guided prayer
- iv. Maybe have a 2-3 day mission?
- v. Courses covering basic Catholic doctrine and practices
- vi. Alpha course or similar
- vii. Activities or other learning opportunities for children of school age (eg Messy Church sessions)
- viii. More explanation of Sunday readings – whether through material published by others (eg booklets, YouTube videos) or regular meetings before Sunday Mass
- ix. Retreat days or half days for readers/Eucharistic ministers and others giving service in the parish
- x. Have CTS leaflets and books available for sale in the shop
- xi. Possibly have a small library of books people can borrow

d. Liturgy

- i. Some changes have already been made to music in response to comments, eg quiet moment during communion with hymn afterwards, and possibly looking for a new Mass setting for 9.30 Mass
- ii. Widen the people who take part in the offertory procession each week

There was a desire to encourage wider participation in parish life particularly from younger people. We discussed the idea from a book (Divine Renovation by Fr James Mallon) that the rules have changed over the last few decades. It is no longer the case that believing correctly and behaving properly lead to belonging. Nowadays, for a variety of reasons, this pattern is reversed. People need to belong first before they are open to examining their beliefs and behaviours. It is important to have plenty of opportunities for people to build trusting and caring relationships and experience welcome and non-judgmental belonging within our parish community.

- 4) **Agreed** to hold a parish meeting to report the ideas back to the parish and jointly discuss the way forward. Date to be Thursday 16th May – 7pm – 9pm and we would provide cake and biscuits. Peter N to ensure Club is booked.

- 5) The name of the building could be decided at the parish meeting, based on the results of a vote to be held during one weekend in May. We **agreed** the following short list of suitable names for the first round of voting (in alphabetical order)
 - a. Cadley Room
 - b. CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)
 - c. Family Room
 - d. Newman Room
 - e. Padua Room
 - f. St Anthony's Church Hall

- 6) Feast Day – Sunday 9th June 2019
 - a. Ian reported that plans have been made, but not yet confirmed for an organist (since Angie is away).
 - b. Lost and Found will be available to sing in the Club afterwards and will be requested to sing 2-3 songs so as to allow more time for people to socialize.
 - c. We may also have a short quiz of some kind.
 - d. If possible, we would like school choir to sing something during Mass in Church.
 - e. Uniform groups to start from and meet afterwards in the Club, so they need to make this clear to their leaders and parents.
 - f. Bacon Butties – decided not to offer them this year but ask for donations for cakes instead.

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 26th June 2019 7.00 pm

Closing Prayer - Led by Wendy