

Minutes of the Walking Together Team meeting

16th March 2023 in St. Peter's Parish Centre

Present:

Apologies:

Jonathan chaired the meeting, which began with the Synod prayer and the response to Psalm 94.

1. Matters arising from the minutes of 19th January meeting

Under item 2c:

- No-one has signed up online for the topic groups
- More thought needs to be given as to how to involve the housebound and those with intellectual disabilities. Mary H will work with the latter group.

2. Topic groups

- a) 70 people have signed up so far, including a few for more than one group. Some won't sign up until the dates of meetings are advertised. Some are reluctant to leave contact details.
- b) Topic Group leaders. Jonathan had approached a number of people, but many had declined for a variety of reasons. A few more names were suggested. It was decided that each group leader should be supported by another person.
- c) So far the group leaders are:
 - Group 1 – Roger Elson assisted by Diana O'Reilly and /or Sandy Tansey
 - Group 2 – Gill Ayers-Hunt assisted by Mary Holden
 - Group 3 – Liz Mottram assisted by Margaret Dimambro
 - Group 4 – Mary Rouse assisted by Jackie Rabone
 - Group 5 – Jane Rebika assisted by ?
- d) Role of Topic Group leader

Briefly, the duties of a Topic Group leader are:

 1. to confer as far as practicable with the group participants and **first** agree which areas to focus on (no more than three), and **then** decide the wording of the questions to be put to the discernment meetings of his/her group between 17 April and 3 May 2023 . (All subject to any rulings of the Walking Together team on overlaps with questions proposed for discussion by other topic groups)
 2. to plan and organize as many discernment meetings as are needed for all members to discuss those questions, following the Diocesan Handbook guidelines used in January 2022, and booking rooms in the three parishes through the church representatives;
 3. to organize (through the facilitators) the collation of reports on each of those questions and to deliver a synthesis of the conclusions on each question to the Walking Together team by about 22 May.
- e) Each topic has many facets, so it will not be feasible to take up all suggestions.
- f) Use of terminology. After discussion it was decided to use 'facilitator' instead of 'enabler' and 'note-taker' rather than 'scribe'.

3. The Process

- a) Church reps to send group leaders contact details of their group's participants
- b) Group leaders to book rooms for meetings. Might the larger groups require an afternoon and evening meeting?
- c) Group leaders to contact participants to find out their particular area of interest and inform of dates of meetings to take place 17th April – 3rd May.
- d) To meet the currently accepted timetable, group leaders must publish their schedule of meetings (dates and times, venues and questions as in Appendix B of our Catholic Leamington Synod report) **by or in Easter Week**.
- e) At the meetings there will be 5 or 6 around each table with a facilitator, who ensures the orderly conduct of the meeting. He/she does not participate in the sharing but at the end speaks about where he/she considers the Holy Spirit is guiding the group. He/she should take notes as well as the note-taker.

Peter to identify and contact possible facilitators and organise training. At least 6-8 will be needed. Mary H offered.

The question was raised as to whether it is realistic to expect people to act as facilitators at more than one meeting as well as taking part in their own group meetings.

- f) Paul handed out a PowerPoint presentation based on the one from the original meetings, giving an outline and instructions for conducting a meeting.(attached)
- g) Once meetings have taken place group leaders to report back to the WT team by Pentecost, using a simple feedback form. Paul has devised a draft example (attached). Once collated, feedback will be given to the whole parish.
- h) There is increasing need for collaboration with the clergy. It was agreed that a Parish Council should be set up. Could this be one of the outcomes of Group 1- Building Community?
- i) It was stressed that the Walking Together process will be an ongoing feature of Catholic Leamington for many years to come.

4. Promotion

- a) Word of mouth - personal invitation. Encourage people to join Group 5 – Infrastructure. To be encouraged from the altar by clergy. It was suggested that the welcoming notice before the start of Mass be re-introduced at St. Peter's. (This is already in place at Our Lady's). **Anne E to approach Fr. Stephen.**
- b) **Paul to continue with newsletter entries.** Articles also needed for Extra.

5. Any other business

After Easter Canon Paul Fitzpatrick, Episcopal vicar, will visit the parish, to talk about synodality and changes in light of the diocesan vision. The hope was expressed that there will be an opportunity to speak with him and ask questions.

The meeting closed with a prayer and blessing.

The next meeting will be Thursday 30th March at Our Lady's. **Peter to book the lower hall.**