

# **Minutes of the Meeting of the Catholic Leamington Parish Pastoral Council**

**Held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at St Joseph's**

**Present: xxx**

1. The meeting opened with prayers.

2. **Apologies were received from xx**

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April were approved.

4. **Matters Arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes that were not covered by the agenda.

5. **Election of Vice Chairperson**

Brian Malone was proposed as vice-chair of the PPC and the nomination was seconded.  
Brian was elected as vice-chair.

6. **Report on the Youth Work**

Emma had submitted an excellent and comprehensive written report to the council detailing the current and planned youth work. She outlined two key issues: 1) The need for more adult volunteers to help run the Unite Youth group on Wednesday evenings for years 6 -8  
2) How to provide spiritual development for the current Summit group. This is the group that Erin started with the young people who had just started Secondary school. They are now a small group of 15 year olds. They have built a close knit group and Emma wonders if there is a need to start a new group for younger teenagers.

A drive for more volunteers for the Wednesday group could be made in September with an appeal in the newsletter. Emma will discuss the provision for the older group with Fr John. Fr Andy congratulated Emma on building up the presence of Catholic Leamington at the Diocesan youth events like the recent "Its a knockout" where we had two teams of six young people competing.

7. **The Parish Social Committee**

It was reported that there are now 8 people willing to be on a social committee at St Peter's. A meeting has been organised with representatives from all three churches on 16<sup>th</sup> July to come together to share ideas on how they can help each other and to devise a social calendar for the next year ensuring that a varied range of events are run across the three churches throughout the year.

8. **Proposal to Run an Alpha Course in the Autumn**

After attending the Divine Renovation Conference earlier in the year, the Evangelisation group proposed running an Alpha course in the Autumn term in the Parish. Deacon David &

June Palmer has lots of experience running Alpha and ran one in Lillington a few years ago. Finding a suitable venue has been a problem. St Peter's hall is central and easy for people to get to but it was not available every week for the required length of time. It was mentioned that Trinity School had suggested hosting an Alpha Course in the Autumn. The PPC felt that this was worth following up on and David and June will contact Trinity to see if we can run a course for the Parish and the school at Trinity. Although this is not central, it would bring closer links between the school and the parish and another course could be run early next year at one of the Primary schools if it works. It was suggested that the deacon preach about the Alpha course in order to publicise it in the parishes.

## **9. Parish Visitation**

The Warwick Deanery visitation by the Bishops will begin in October and end next March. There will be an opening and closing event. Archbishop Bernard would like to visit St Peter's and Our Lady's. Fr Andy has already arranged a date for Bishop William to visit St Joseph's. The bishops will want to look at the activities of the parishes, the various groups etc. Fr John will organise a week-end for the Archbishop to visit - probably in October. He will suggest that he says the 12.30 vigil Mass at Our Lady's, the 11am Mass at St Peter's and the 5.30pm Mass at St Joseph's. Emma volunteered the youth groups' help and suggested a youth Mass.

## **10. The vision for Pastoral Development in the Parish**

Fr John is putting together a plan for the Pastoral development of the Parish and suggested that at each meeting we focus on one area of the plan.

In this meeting we looked at the provision of Sacramental preparation across Catholic Leamington, particularly Baptism. He has recently met the Baptism team, who are proposing running a shorter course less frequently. Fr Andy prepares the couples himself for baptism at St Joseph's as he has no catechists. There is generally no follow up after a baptism. The need to identify and train up new catechists was highlighted. With the changes planned at Maryvale there would be more emphasis on catechetical training in the future and Catholic Leamington could make use of this. Having a directory of people in the parish and their skill sets / spiritual gifting i.e. a skills and gifts audit, would be very useful but quite difficult to put together. One of the PPC members offered to try to design a spreadsheet that could be linked to the web-site and used by parishioners to input their details for a census and also any areas where they have skills that could benefit the parish, like teaching, singing, counselling, practical skills etc. This would need to be sensitively introduced to the parish perhaps with homilies and explanations. Fr John does not want it to be rushed and suggested a trial run first. We will discuss it further at the next meeting when they have had the chance to work on this. Everyone was asked to bring their ideas on how it might be implemented to September's meeting when we will also consider the GDPR implications.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 starting at 7pm  
at St Peter's if a room is available otherwise at Our Lady's**