

Our Lady and the Apostles Parish Pastoral/Mission Team Meeting

Thursday 10th November 2022

Present: Fr. Martin, Mark Kernberg, Dennis Clarke, Stuart Monteith, Henry Chukwumah, Moreen Chamberlain, Janine Murphy, Tina Le, Joana T, Samantha Dobson, Hazel Dove.

Apologies: Magdalena Makowska, Dennis Warmby.

1. Fr. Martin opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. Fr. Martin welcomed all to the meeting and handed out a document entitled 'Parish Pastoral Council (Excerpts)'. He explained that he had invited twelve people to join the team from those put forward, as a starting point, and that he would follow the practice of St. Ambrose and St. Vincent's PPCs, by inviting the group to alternate in the role of chairman and minute secretary. He asked us to think of ideas of how we could be a praying community, the prayer house of the parish, and to focus on what the church needs today. He thought that, as the Church is by nature missionary, we ought to be moving/reaching out more rather than focusing on maintenance. He added that the team should highlight mission, thinking of the name given to our parish. We should be a Marian parish (a kind of Marian shrine for the area) and focus on the missionary zeal of the apostles. How do we achieve these?3.
3. Mission – The first suggestion was of a parish mission in Lent. In a meeting with the PPMTs, of St. Ambrose and St. Vincent's, it had been agreed to invite Michelle of Sion Community to attend the Christmas meeting of the three parishes, either Monday 28th November in person or Tuesday 29th on Zoom. It was agreed that in person on the 28th, starting at 7pm, would be the best option. Father will arrange, possibly in the hall. [Note: Email received later – now moving the meeting of Monday 28th, to an agreed date of Friday 2nd December, due to a change of plans by Michelle.]
4. Christmas cards/letters – Leafleting our three parishes. Suggestions were invited on how to begin reaching out to the wider community – leafleting/cards, involving the school community, sorting the parish into areas, and connecting parishioners with their own local streets. There could be lists at the back of church for people to be involved in leafleting their own neighbourhoods.
5. Welcome group – A welcome group for Masses, particularly weekend Masses, was suggested. It would be good to involve families, Fr. Martin would like as many people to be involved as possible. It was suggested that Mark Kenberg and Claire Monteith could take the organising lead for the Sunday 11 am Mass, and Sheila Paice for the Saturday 6.30pm Mass – i.e. as coordinators, to make sure we have as many families as possible covering the Masses, preferably on a rota basis. They will be contacted by Fr Martin to confirm.
6. Pilgrimages/Parish trips – It was agreed that it would be good to look into organising the three parishes' joint trips. There was much discussion on destinations, suggestions were: International – The Holy Land, Medjugorje. National – Walsingham. Local – Anglesey (a Holy Well) Ladywell, Pantasaph. This item to be brought to a future meeting.
7. Extraordinary ministers of Communion to visit the housebound – Fr. Martin has the list of the above and invited the members of the team who are already extraordinary ministers of

Communion to be involved in this if possible. Some training/preparation and commissioning will be arranged by Fr Martin for new ministers as soon as possible. Reinbeck Nursing Home is in need of a minister. We now have one volunteer for this who, though, is not yet a Eucharistic minister and so will need the required training and commissioning. The question was raised whether representatives of the SVP could join the visit of the sick and housebound in case people are in need of practical help, Fr. Martin will discuss this with the SVP members concerned.

8. Gardening club – We have had a good response to the call for volunteers to keep our premises tidy on a regular basis. Dennis C. agreed to head this group, assisted by Henry C. They will get in touch with the volunteers to get this going.

9. Some important dates:

Wednesday 23rd November – Clergy Day of Recollection – 10.30 am – 3.30 pm (some help may be needed).

Sunday 27th November – Mass for Recently Deceased and their families – in each of the three parishes at their Sunday Mass. Letters will be sent from the office to the families.

Friday 9th December – Confirmation Mass – a choir is needed, suggestions made to ask St. James' High School, or Aquinas College. Otherwise, our Sunday Mass team will be invited to help.

Sunday 11th December – Mass of Anointing of the Sick – 2 pm, Our Lady and the Apostles (SVP to organise lists for those needing transport, and lists for those supplying transport, and also the availability of the Club for after-service refreshments).

Tuesday 13th December – Carols – Aquinas College – 1.30 pm, Our Lady and the Apostles.

Wednesday 14th December – Carols – Our Lady's Primary School – 2 pm, Our Lady and the Apostles.

Thursday 15th December – Advent Penitential Service for 4 parishes – 7 pm, at St. Vincent's.

W/C 6th December – Outdoor Christmas trees to be delivered – dates to be confirmed.

Christmas Masses – bulletin available. There was some discussion re certain times e.g. 10.45 am at Our Lady and the Apostles – It was suggested that 10.45 am would confuse parishioners, and therefore we could have carols at 10.45 am, with Mass at 11 am. The need to recognise the cultural Christmas practices of our diverse community to be looked into and discussed at the next meeting.

10. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 7th December, 7 pm.

11. Fr. Martin closed the meeting with a prayer.