

St. Marie's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of meeting held Monday 4th March 2019
In Cathedral House at 7:45pm

Present:

Leandro Martins (chair)
Niall Corroon (secretary)
Fr. Christopher Posluszny
Eileen Maher
Candida Calvert
Josip Korbar
Mark Linfitt
Charlie Currier

Apologies:

Ossie Uzoigwe

Guests:

David Smith

Opening Prayer: The opening prayer was delivered by Charlie Currier

Prior to starting agenda items, the PPC reviewed previous minutes, and went through ACTION points from our last meeting. Following the discussion on the last deanery meeting and the proposed establishment of focus groups, the PPC discussed how we should best establish a presence from St. Marie's parishioners if this becomes a reality. The PPC agreed that we should await the next Deanery Meeting to be clear that these 'best practice' groups are going ahead. We can then advertise or recruit as required.

Most of the website updates have now been posted, and a number of expansions and improvements have been made. Prior to the meeting, Candida Calvert outlined further developments we may need to do with the website – these are to be discussed at the next meeting.

1. Parish Ministries

The PPC welcomed David Smith, who is responsible for organisation of Eucharistic Ministry at the Cathedral, to the meeting to discuss ministries. The PPC had also received a detailed account of Reading at the Cathedral from Bob Rae, who was unable to attend having been notified at very short notice.

Eucharistic Ministry

Due to the transient nature of Cathedral parishioners, Eucharistic Ministers likewise often come and go within the parish. There is always an element of pressure to find new ministers, to have them adequately trained, and to support existing ministers.

In terms of numbers of ministers, there are some inconsistencies across masses. The 8:30am Sunday mass, and Saturday 5:30pm Vigil mass are regarded as those in the greatest need. On weekdays, there is ample help – but many of the ministers attend different parishes at the weekend.

Many ministers have been serving at the Cathedral for years, and it has been some years since they attended any form of renewal day. It was decided that a day of renewal for Eucharistic Ministers, with the view to this becoming an annual tradition, would be worthwhile. This should focus on both practical and spiritual renewals for those performing this important task.

Altar Servers

The conversation was led by Leandro Martins, who acts as a senior altar server. Recently, lots of new servers have begun at the 10:30am and 6:30pm Sunday masses. In addition, there is a desire to establish better consistency in altar serving across masses. Therefore, a training day is to be scheduled in the near future for both existing and new servers. There is a sparsity of altar servers at other Sunday masses – particularly the 12:30pm mass. Server recruitment required a new focus.

Readers

Bob Rae kindly distributed a very comprehensive account detailing the current situation of reading at St. Marie's, which the PPC had the opportunity to view prior to the meeting. This explained that in recent months, an appeal at masses led to an additional 13 readers at the Cathedral. This has led to a total capacity of 39 potential readers across all Sunday masses (with a minimum number of 5 readers who attend each mass).

As a result of the recent recruitment, a Reader's Day was held in Holden Hall on Saturday 23rd February. Many established and new readers attended, and it was an opportunity to work through spiritual and practical elements of the role (including knowledge of the Cathedral's sound system and the opportunity for practice). The event was well-received by all who attended.

Bell Ringers

Although not initially timetabled, Bob Rae's update kindly informed the PPC on the current status of bell ringing at the Cathedral. In recent months, Bob and Maggie Rae have spearheaded a recruitment and training program for new ringers coming from St. Marie's parish – following an initial request from Fr. Chris to have a team ringing the bells on most Sundays and special occasions. A team was established from new parish volunteers, who now frequently ring alongside members of Sheffield University Guild of Change Ringers (SUGCR) and other ringers from across the local region. Following training kindly provided by ringers from St. John's Church in Ranmoor, the new team of ringers debuted on the centenary commemorations of Armistice Sunday.

As the bells have been semi-dormant for many years prior to this resurgence in ringing, repairs have been required on some of the bells. The Cathedral's Health and Safety Officer has recently visited the bell tower, and made recommendations on replacing the worn carpet in the Ringing Chamber, and floorboarding the Rope Guide Chamber.

ACTION: For Eucharistic Ministers, it was agreed to hold a renewal day about halfway through Easter – on Saturday 18th May, followed by a formal re-acknowledgement for ministers during the next day's Sunday masses.

The day is provisionally planned to start at 9:30am, with reflection at 10am, adoration at 11:15, mass at 12:30pm, lunch and then a practical session at 2pm. Since the PPC have a record of who is registered as a Eucharistic Minister, David Smith is to liaise with Candida Calvert to plan the process of notifying ministers. A notice should also go into the bulletin nearer the time.

For Altar Servers, Leandro is liaising with Paul Helliwell to plan and schedule Altar Server training. Once this is in the diary, servers will be informed. It is suggested to concurrently start a fresh appeal for servers at particular masses (this can be open to children and adults – but adults must go through a DBS check). A 'taster session' may be incorporated into the training day. Paul Helliwell will be asked to help in enrolling new servers into the Guild of St. Stephen.

There is a need for further recruitment of Bell Ringers to maintain the status quo of ringing most Sundays. Niall Corroon is to liaise with Bob Rae as to whether any additional PPC support is required in to support this.

2. Evangelisation

Charlie Currier kindly led an update to the PPC on how the evangelisation initiative was progressing. As agreed at the last meeting, the 'Faith in Pictures' project has been moved to coincide with the period prior to Pentecost (this year on 9th June). The purpose of the 'Faith in Pictures' project is to train individuals to feel comfortable sharing their faith with others, and equipping people to be able to have those conversations with ease.

It was agreed that the 'Faith in Pictures' program is to start on 7/5/19 in the Parish Room. It is to run as a six-week program.

There is still an idea to run a street party on Norfolk Row in June or July. However, in order for this to be successful and non-disruptive, permission will be needed from Sheffield City Council.

ACTION: Charlie Currier is to look into seeking permission from Sheffield City Council to hold an event on Norfolk Row. This could need formal recognition, permission, and passing a health and safety check (Norfolk Row is used as an access road for emergencies on Fargate). Claire Campbell at St Marie's is to be consulted on health and safety. If permission is granted, we may consider linking this to a secular event, such as a National Holiday.

3. Lent 2019

Following from the discussion last meeting, it was agreed to hold Station of the Cross every Friday evening during Lent, to take place following the 5:30pm evening mass.

The PPC agreed that Lenten talks, to take place on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week (April 15th-17th) would be on the subject of Healing. The first talk is to be on the need for healing, the second on Biblical healing, and the third on the healing nature of Jesus.

The Gregorian Choir is to sing during Lent (as agreed last meeting) – this has been published in the newsletter and on the Cathedral's Facebook account.

ACTION: Candida Calvert has kindly agreed to notify the office regarding Stations of the Cross, for their record and also for an entry in the bulletin. The first session is to be on 15th March.

Candida is also to produce a poster for the noticeboard and back of church – detailing all events to happen during the Lenten Season.

Charlie Currier is to continue searching for speakers – Fr. Lee Marshall has agreed to give the first talk – in time for our next meeting.

The Social Media accounts are to publish information on activities during Lent – coinciding with the details on the Lenten poster.

4. Big Thank-You 2018/2019

The recent Big Thank-You celebration went very well. Many thanks on behalf of the PPC to all who contributed to this. The turnout was high by previous years, with over 70 attendees.

ACTION: The PPC have agreed to return the date of the Big Thank-You to November of every year, so the next celebration will be on 16th November 2019.

5. Annual Parish Update

Niall Corroon provided a very brief outline of all the work that had been done over the past 12 months by the PPC. Candida produced her Annual Parish Update design from 2017 and we can combine the two (alongside additional points made by PPC members during the meeting) in order to publish the update in the coming weeks.

New PPC work in the last 12 months include helping to establish new community groups (such as the Women's Support Group, and Hope and Dignity Hearth), updating communication strategies through social media and an updated website, managing events such as the recent Dowry Tour, and spearheading fundraising and charity efforts.

When we discussed the Parish Update, there was a conversation on the overall visibility of the PPC within the parish community, with one parishioner having described the PPC as a 'hidden gem' within the parish. We agreed that engagement and overt visibility of the PPC is important, as we carry out work in the parish.

ACTION: Once the Annual Parish Update is completed by Candida, the PPC need to agree on a publication date for this via email correspondence. Niall Corroon is to write a short piece derived from this update, for PPC members to read out at the end of Sunday masses. The

update is to be published alongside the bulletin one weekend soon, with the announcements at the end of masses accompanying this.

6. Fr. Chris Update

There are no new major announcements from Fr. Chris. The Cathedral (and associated parishes) is currently operating with three priests.

So far, there have been eight expressions of interest in the post of Organist/Choir Master, following the announcement that Hugh Finnigan is to retire after many years of service.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 1st April 2019

Future meetings: Wednesday 8th May 2019