

## **St. Marie's Parish Pastoral Council**

Minutes of meeting held Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022  
In the Parish Room at 6:30pm

### **Present:**

Eileen Maher (chair)  
Niall Corroon (secretary)  
Fr. Chris Posluszny  
Candida Calvert  
Onesmus Nyale (via Zoom)  
Josip Korbar (via Zoom)  
Mark Linfitt (via Zoom)

### **Apologies:**

Charlie Currier

### **Guest:**

Emma Green (via Zoom)  
Catherine Bailey

**Opening Prayer:** This was kindly led by Niall Corroon.

Eileen, as PPC Chair, welcomed all to the meeting, especially Cath Bailey as a guest. No major amendments were required for the last set of minutes.

Since the last PPC meeting, the CAFOD appeal did take place. There was plenty of conversation with parishioners following the appeal, but it is unknown whether a team of CAFOD representatives were acquired. Eileen Maher offered to get in touch with the diocesan CAFOD representative to see if there has been any progress on increasing CAFOD's presence within the Cathedral parish.

### **1. Health and Safety Issues**

The PPC welcomed Catherine Bailey, who attended as Health and Safety representative for St. Marie's, who gave an update on issues being addressed within the Cathedral.

Firstly, although the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBCW) outlined aspects of church life which could be reintroduced some months ago (with the easing of COVID restrictions), the Cathedral has not yet made all these changes. These include the reintroduction of Eucharistic Ministers, and the refilling of Holy Water stoops. Use of the Sign of Peace has just been reintroduced in the last couple of weeks. However, as other parishes have already made some changes the practice at the Cathedral has caused a little confusion, and some have remarked that the Cathedral should be leading the appropriate relaxation of measures as it led the introduction of measures in the first place.

Regarding the Cathedral's infrastructure, there is a growing list of maintenance and small repairs which need completion. This includes for example repairs to doors, paintwork, lights, pointing etc. It was noted there has been some delay in getting this work done due to change in 'Handyman' personnel. The pressing issue of use of the lift leading to Houlden Hall was raised, Catherine updated the meeting on the repair status of the lift. The lift has been repaired but there is an issue relating to leaking water into the lift shaft which needs resolving before the lift can be safely used.

PPC members recalled the guidebook for stewards, written by Bob Rae some years prior. This would now be a little out-of-date in some places, but it was felt that updating this could be worthwhile.

Candida, linking with Catherine and the safeguarding lead, is undertaking a risk assessment and developing a safety framework for Children's Liturgy at the 10:30am Sunday mass. With this restarting post-pandemic, and with large numbers of attendees every week (approx. 40), there have been some changes made to the protocol of running Children's Liturgy. Candida Calvert has written a mission statement and code of conduct. There is weekly monitoring of who is attending, the age of children attending, and the numbers/ratio of supervising adults present. A similar process of developing a safety framework has started for the youth group running at St. Vincent's Mission Hub. These frameworks enable succession planning to take place, and for established practices like Children's Liturgy to be resilient to any change in who is running or organising.

Catherine and Candida are devising an education programme for stewards. A date is planned (5<sup>th</sup> July 2022) where representatives from Sheffield City Council and the Archer Project will guide stewards to know how to befriend, signpost, inform and listen to visitors to the Cathedral. This session is also to support stewards how to not get *too* involved in the lives and troubles of visitors. Catherine is to provide a Health and Safety briefing session aimed at stewards and other appropriate volunteers to include Fire, Slips, Trips and falls, lone working, security and safety etc. This is complimenting what has been done for Cathedral staff to the aim is that this becomes an annual briefing.

An Incident Form is being developed to sit along the Accident Book in the Cathedral. The aim is that recorded incidents will highlight near misses, untoward events and monitor trends to identify any actions required. Following discussion, it was agreed that a Health and Safety e-mail address would be useful for the purpose of widening reporting access.

There has not yet been a decision made on any suitable replacements for the choir robes, following the discarding of the old red ones on safety grounds. Discussions are ongoing regarding the position of the choir and use of the Lewis organ.

**ACTION:** As above. We thought to have a permanent line in the bulletin and the website in order for parishioners to know who to contact for health and safety matters.

The PPC felt that quarterly Health and Safety updates from Cath would be worthwhile, for us to keep in touch.

## **2. Review of Lent and Easter**

Now well into Eastertide, the PPC reflected on activities during the season of Lent and considered how these went. As in previous years (done differently during the height of the pandemic) 3 talks were delivered, this time the week prior to Holy Week. These were given to a live audience, followed by music and benediction within the Cathedral. They were also filmed and broadcast on the Shalom World Prayer Channel. Thanks were issued to Charlie Currier, for providing music which was beautiful.

Although many watched these talks online, attendance in person was relatively sparse for each of the 3 talks. It was felt that this could be considered somewhat disheartening given how much preparation would have gone into each of these. The PPC felt that perhaps pre-recording the talks might be a more suitable option – we can reconsider this prior to Lent 2023.

Attendance at the Holy Week services was good, with 279 attending on Maundy Thursday and 375 on Good Friday. In addition, the broadcast on Shalom Media acquired over 81,000 views online. On Good Friday there were many standing at the back, and it was difficult to get as many sat down as the Cathedral allowed. The PPC wondered whether a prior announcement to have 6 to a row would work, or whether ordering the positioning of parishioners when they arrive (i.e. fill up from the front, as we did during the pandemic) might be a good strategy to avoid overcrowding. The Easter Vigil mass was well-attended but not enough candles were available.

Eileen Maher wondered whether the washing of the feet could be done a different way, perhaps in a way which is more comfortable for the Bishop? We can discuss options for amending this next year.

**ACTION:** The above opportunities for improvements and amendments can be discussed at the start of Lent 2023.

## **3. Befriending Request**

There has been a request, on behalf of a lonely elderly gentleman, whether the Cathedral's COGs (Cathedral Outreach Groups) could potentially incorporate a 'befriending' service. This is something which has yet to be established, and we don't currently have the capacity to set up a service in the immediate future. Paul Helliwell and David Smith do both visit the housebound to administer communion, but this is not a befriending service per se.

In the past, and in other parishes, services like this are provided by a functioning SVP (St. Vincent de Paul Society). We feel the Cathedral parish might benefit from having one.

**ACTION:** Candida agreed to write up a bulletin entry to see if any parishioners might be interested in setting up an SVP Society within St. Marie's to help the aforementioned gentleman and others who may benefit from community outreach and befriending.

#### **4. Synod Engagement Process**

The PPC discussed again the results of this process, on a parish level, following the discussion from the last meeting. Some of the issues raised, specifically the need to build unity within the Cathedral community, are being addressed with the establishment of the Christian Village of St. Marie's. This is currently early in its establishment and is finding its feet. Fr. Chris stated he will go through all feedback and consider a more robust parish-level response in the next couple of months.

The PPC felt that, as has been referenced in the Synod Engagement Process, that communication from the Cathedral could be improved. We acknowledged that the website is quite out-of-date in many areas, and this needs updating.

There is always a need for new volunteers to aid with communication, as PPC members face being overstretched in their workload and responsibilities. However, for the sake of continuity it is important that work will be in keeping with the 'house brand' of St. Marie's.

**ACTION:** We felt that an appeal for volunteers for the communication team could be made via the WhatsApp group. Niall Corroon offered to go through the Cathedral website in detail and compile a list of aspects which need an update.

#### **5. Corpus Christi Procession**

This will happen in 2022, for the first time in 3 years. The event has been booked in with both Sheffield City Council and the Police informed. It will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> June. Volunteers are needed, and there will be an appeal for volunteers in the upcoming weeks.

#### **6. Fr. Chris Update**

Two holidaying priests will be attending in June to help with the running of the Cathedral.

The closing prayer was offered by Niall Corroon.

**NEXT MEETING: To take place on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022, at 6:30pm in the Parish Room**