

Minutes of the PPC Meeting

Wednesday 28 August 2024, at English Martyrs, Didcot

In Attendance

Fr Dominic, Camilla King, Edwin Samu, Cecilia Wheeler, Brian Doyle,

Apologies

Sue Hunt, Anne-Marie Bromley

Minutes of Previous Meeting

First Holy Communion

The PPC expressed their thanks to all those involved in the organising and preparation of this years First Holy Communion Sunday, a joyful celebration for all concerned.

Also, particular thanks to Mary Harrison, whose last year as organiser of the FHC preparation course this was.

Youth Group at St Johns

No update on this, but Cecilia to ask for an update by next meeting.

Parish Administrator

Papers have now been processed and we are pleased to welcome Ada Chim as our new Parish Administrator, formally starting in September. We wish her every success in her new role, providing essential administrative support to the Parish, and hopefully allowing Fr Dominic a little free time in his busy schedule.

Ladybird School

We have had no word that this will be moving forward.

Pastoral Area

As part of "You Will Be My Witness", English Martyrs, Didcot is set to become the focal point for the surrounding pastoral area, with events taking place at EM involving other Parishes, including Holyrood, Abingdon, East Isley and others.

Given this focus, it would make sense for English Martyrs to have a Church Hall to accommodate the increase in such significant events, and we should use this as a driver to construct same. It was proposed to ask a committee to form to address this specific matter, with Brian McNamee to be asked to lead.

Diocesan Payments to Parish Priests

Edwin Samu has written to the Financial Director for the Diocese expressing the PPC's concerns about the proposed approach and is awaiting a full and considered response.

St Johns Staying Open

A secure lockbox for keys has been set up in St Johns, which should facilitate opening and closing the Church.

Faith Clinics

Have now started and will be held once a month for a trial period.

Childrens Liturgy

Restarting on 8th September.

A children's library has been setup at the back of the Church to engage younger children.

Matters Arising

St Johns Celebration

Preparations are in full swing for the 22nd September, with invitations and decorations being pulled together by the organising team at St Johns.

The PPC assures the team they can call on support as required, and expressed their best wishes for the day itself.

Liturgy Group Proposals

Sister Judith Rossi will lead a half day Retreat for all Eucharistic Ministers in the Pastoral Area on 12th October in English Martyrs.

A Formation Retreat has been proposed, no date set as yet, addressing the introduction of the new Catholic Lectionary in the Parish at the start of Advent 2024. A campaign will be started for donations toward the purchase of the new Lectionary's for use in both churches.

Screens for English Martyrs

Fr Dominic has investigated local suppliers for two retractable projection screens which could be mounted the walls on either side at the front of the church, one above the Sacred Heart statue, one above Our Lady's statue. These could be used to display hymn lyrics and the like to increase the involvement of the congregation without the need for hymn books.

Both Lease and Purchase options were considered, with Purchasing seeming to be the most cost effective, and this recommendation will be passed to the Finance Committee

Any Other Business

Joint Celebration of Gratitude

John Elsley has announced his intention to retire, after many years of loyal service to the Parish as groundskeeper and handyman.

It has been suggested that both he and Mary Harrison, who is stepping down from being the leader of the First Holy Communion program, be included in a special joint celebration for their years of dedication to the life of the Parish.

The PPC wishes to express its profound gratitude to them both for all they have done during their working life and hopes they each enjoy a long and peaceful retirement.

Flowers

To be more environmentally responsible by cutting down on plastic use, Church flowers are no longer be mounted in Floral Oasis.

Weekday Evening Mass

For a trial period, a weekday Mass will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6pm, to allow working people the opportunity to attend a Mass during the week.

Next Meeting

23rd October 2024 – St Johns