

ENGLISH MARTYRS` AND ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY.

JOINT PARISH PASTORAL MEETING

8th September 2022.

Present: Fr Gerry (Parish Priest); Tony Sharpe (Vice chair St Augustine`s); Anne Kinghorn; Jeni Gardener; Karen Dinsmore; Liz Tomkins; Babu Aliyath(Syro Malabar Rep); Veronica Hollingsbee(Secretary St Augustine`s).

Apologies: Simon Hall (Vice chair, English Martyrs`); Nikki O`Neill (Secretary English Martyrs`); William Pearce (youth Rep); Ufumo Bakpa.

Meeting chaired by Tony Sharpe; minutes taken by Veronica Hollingsbee in the absence of Simon and Nikki

1. Opening Prayer. This took place in the Church, and consisted of a reflection on the Genealogy of Jesus today being Our Lady`s birthday. The time also allowed for prayer and silent reflection

2. Minutes of previous meeting (11/7/2022) accepted as correct.

3. Matters arising.

3.1. Karen to contact Mandy Baker re the proposed Youth Group. This has not been possible, therefore action ongoing.

ACTION: To speak to Mandy Baker re participants and adult helpers for Youth Group=Karen.

3.2. Will to contact English Martyrs` H+S rep as regards risk assessment in setting up the Youth Group. This has not been possible, therefore action ongoing.

ACTION; To contact H+S rep re risk assessments in setting up the Youth group =Will.

3.3. Committee members photos. Tony has taken the photos, and these will be placed on notice boards in the appropriate Church.

ACTION: To place committee photos on noticeboards= Tony..

3.4. Diocesan Synod report. Members were asked to read this and supply suggestions for discussion to Fr Gerry. (see point no. 4.).

4. Synod report discussion. Tony suggested "Participation".

A.) Live streaming and Zoom meetings have been much appreciated. It has enabled families and those on their own to participate. These, methods have been a life-line. It has been proved to be most useful to the housebound and those in Hospital. For example, when a wife visited her husband in hospital, they would watch the Mass together. Funerals and weddings on-line have also been appreciated. This method of communicating is maintaining a link with the Church. However, it could also mean parishioners may not return to Church. The Syro-Malabar also used on-line Masses during the pandemic. Since lockdown has been

lifted, the broadcasts have been stopped. They don't have any sick or housebound parishioners. We need to monitor how many are watching on-line. Fr Gerry and Tony are looking at a more permanent solution as regards Zoom meetings.

B.)Participation - how do we fully engage? We are sharing our Churches` with the Syro-Malabar community. They join our Masses, services and social functions. They have agreed to decorate the outside of St Augustine`s, provide food, Fr Augustine will join the other Priests` for our 60th Anniversary Mass. Babu pointed out that it is easier for children and younger members to engage with us as they are taught in English which helps. We asked Babu if there was anything else we should be doing to facilitate participation. The community are happy with the way things are. They feel supported by us. He thanked Fr Gerry for the use of both Churches`.

Agneskia helped with Polish first holy communion candidates. Polish Masses are held regularly in St Peter`s. Karen stated it was possible to order bi-lingual Mass cards, and also possible to print off readings in various languages. We could start off with one language for Mass cards and assess results.

ACTION: To order bi-lingual mass cards=Fr Gerry.

5.Suggestion box. Parishioners from both parishes have asked for someone to speak on the Synod results. All our input has been fed into the Diocese. Fr Gerry has sent a PDF to those who receive the newsletter via email. The JtPPC could reflect on how we can implement suggestions, then report back to the Open meetings. Another suggestion was a bullet point to be mentioned after Mass, then explain more at Open meetings. Or committee members be available to discuss points over coffee after Mass. Tony indicated he would be willing to mention a bullet point after Mass, with further discussion to follow. We agreed it is important to focus on what we can accomplish.

ACTION: Look at English and Welsh Bishop`s National Synthesis, plus their reflections=committee member

For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission Catholic Bishops` Conference(cbcew.org.uk)

6. Any other business.

6.1.English Martyrs` youth group. This is open to all from both parishes`, in school year groups 7-13. It is envisaged they will meet monthly, except holidays and half -term. There is an initial meeting on Friday September 23rd , 7-9 pm at English Martyrs`.

6.2.Children`s Mass. Scheduled for October 2nd at English Martyrs`. The Eucharistic Prayer and homily will be aimed at the younger parishioners. The children will also be involved in the Mass as much as possible.

7. Future meetings.

Monday 7 th November 2022	St Augustine`s.
In 2023	
Wednesday 11 th January	English Martyrs`.
Monday 6 th March	St Augustine`s.
Tuesday 9 th May	English Martyrs`.
Wednesday 12 th July	St Augustine`s.
Thursday 7 th September	English Martyrs`.

SIGNED

Fr Gerry, Parish Priest.

Tony Sharpe, Vice chair.

DATE