

**ST JOHN FISHER ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Minutes of the Meeting held online via Zoom at 1930
on Monday 15th February 2021**

- * Fr Graham Stokes Parish Priest
- * Fr Axcel Soriano Assistant Priest
- * Kay O'Connor Catechist
- * Neville Bayross
- * Neil Cocking Chairman, Music & Liturgy
- * Gerald O'Keefe Safeguarding
- + Delores McLean-Boyd Safeguarding
- * Neville Ransley Education / Catechesis
- * Nuala Rodger Young People
- * Teresa Maybury Caritas
- * Elspeth Everitt Clerk
- * *Member present*
- # *Member present for part of meeting*
- + *Apologies*

Item No		Action
1	<p>Welcome & Opening Prayer Fr Graham opened the meeting with prayer. Apologies have been received from Delores Mclean-Boyd. Fr Axcel & Teresa were welcomed to their first PPC meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the last meeting (October 5th 2020) Minutes were approved & signed off virtually. There were no matters arising.</p>	
3	<p>Parish Priest's remarks (circulated by email)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • church closed for 4 weeks during second lockdown in November • Public masses began again on 2nd December with pre-lockdown 2 schedule (Sat 6pm; Sun 8.30am; 10.30am (livestreamed) mass and 12noon). • able to remain open during third lockdown; only Stanmore and Kenton have closed temporarily • 9. weekday Mass stayed at 10am • pruning of times for adoration to reflect in part lack of heating in church • attendance fell again in January and approx. 20% of regular numbers reflecting experience of other Harrow parishes • Baptisms and Weddings currently taking place only in emergency although 2 baptism during Saturday morning Mass in December • Funerals with 30 max – more than usual but less than in Spring/Summer 2020 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visiting sick and housebound only now in emergency but Fr Axcel is in contact and has visited a number of parishioners prior to latest lockdown • Sacrament of Sick/Last Rights administered to those in need - situation throughout the pandemic; no access to NPH – contact chaplain • Confessions continue as usual with screen and outside the confessional • The Covid-secure group working effectively with thanks to Rob Browne, John-Paul Yuill, Mike Parkinson and Kay. Recent training session for stewards. Acknowledge danger of weariness with the ‘new normal’ measures. • Teams of stewards and cleaners are working well but always need strengthening especially at 12noon and given timeframe • Nuala, Kay, FlorAlba and Sylwia continue to work in the presbytery with ‘Covid secure’ measures such as more cleaning, larger rooms for meetings, improved ventilation and meeting people with a prior appointment/in small hall. • Faith development continues via Zoom with Faith Café’s ‘The Joy of Hope’ in Advent and ‘No Greater Love’ Holy Week Scripture Study in Lent • Foodbank monthly collection began in December with support of parish SVP • social life of the parish has been on hold but we have started a virtual coffee morning on alternate Fridays; • Faithful Citizens programme should lead to other developments post pandemic • Fr Axcel Soriano arrived in the parish in November. A Wednesday morning Mass has been introduced since his arrival. Restricted in how we can make use of his talents but he has begun effectively working remotely with school! <p><u>Finance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFR has been completed • 50% fall in envelopes and loose plate offset by 38% increase in standing orders • thanks to parishioners’ continued support overall 6% fall in assessable income • 63% fall in non-assessable income (candles, parish centre, Christmas & Easter offerings, specific donations, third party collections) • loan repayments remain paused with outstanding debt of £115,916 (26 months) 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor box payments have been made to agreed charities except for Firm Foundations who did not respond to communication • Lenten Alms to support Cardinal’s Appeal and Mary’s Meals <p><u>Property</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work undertaken to repair flat rooves and leak in flashing on church roof • quotes obtained for installing safety glass in doors in church narthex and side door • emergency exit keys installed on inside of doors in centre complex • H & S work needed on storage of bar equipment; storage of dangerous chemicals such as bleach and brass cleaner and upgrading and installing presbytery smoke/CO/fire alarms • dehumidifier working well at 11 Imperial Close; enquiring about cost of lease extension in light of possible change in leasehold legislation • new fencing at rear of parish centre following UK Power Networks responding to request to cut down vegetation • discussion about long term livestream/synergy with CCTV installation • quotes to be sought on exit from confessional into lobby to improve security and safeguarding practice <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The question of whether to continue to live stream mass in the long term will be considered once the church is fully re-opened. • Safe distancing may need to continue into the autumn. • Congregation numbers are now more evenly spread across weekend masses. • Property – Neil has experience of lease extensions and offered to be involved in discussions about 11 Imperial Close. <p>Formal thanks were given to Claire and Mike Parkinson for all their work recording and live streaming masses so effectively.</p>	
4	<p>Liturgy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music continues at 10:30 Sunday mass. • Baptisms, reconciliation, & visiting the sick at home are taking place in the parish. The Roman Catholic chaplain visits parishioners who are in hospital. • Funerals have not been live-streamed so far. It was queried whether the fixed camera could be used to stream (as in Pinner on ChurchServicesTV) 	Fr Graham

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5	<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>DBS applications have been made for all existing volunteers & for some new volunteers. The Diocese require renewal every 3 years & volunteers can register for an update facility.</p> <p>Fr Graham, Kay and Gerald met in January to discuss safeguarding issues and regular meetings are planned.</p>	
6	<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Communions and Confirmations were completed between September and November 2020. • Applications for Confirmation in 2021 were taken in November 2020 but it has not been possible to start full group activities. It will be challenging to complete preparation. • Approximately half the usual number of children have registered for First Communion & Confirmation. • Only a few First Communion children are coming to mass & about 10 are working through their books. • Real progress is only likely when groups can meet again. 	
7	<p>Harrow Citizens Update</p> <p>Faithful Citizens Zoom sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sessions were planned with the Harrow Citizens local organiser with the aim of building relationships and developing leaders in the parish. • 4 x weekly 1 hour Zoom sessions in January/ February were led by 4 different parishioners. Neville Ransley gave an interesting summary of the Fratelli Tutti encyclical followed by discussion in week 1, Weeks 2 & 3 covered communication between different age and cultural groups. Session 4 focussed on agreeing a practical first step within the parish. • Attendance was over 25 at each session with 38 at the second session which explored the generation gap. Teresa led this session and is working on engaging more young people in parish life. Most of the younger group who came to the Zoom session are recent graduates and are fully occupied building skills and seeking work. • Teresa is investigating ways to engage young parishioners through local Catholic High schools & St Dominics. Kay reported that few of the boys in the Confirmation group attend Salvatorian College & are pupils at the Oratory, Nower Hill, Cardinal Vaughan & St Joan of Arc schools. Some young people read at mass & could be involved. Teresa will discuss ideas with Kay & Neil. Safeguarding issues will be taken into account. 	Teresa

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final Zoom session identified ‘making St John Fisher a more welcoming parish’ post-pandemic as a priority. A group will begin work on practical plans before Easter. Kay recommended involving stewards in this. They meet and know by name many of the people coming to mass. Approximately 150 people come to weekend masses. • Fr Graham will check how many people open the weekly e-newsletter <p>Harrow Citizens action groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing: a potential site has been identified for 8 independent homes for single homeless people in South Harrow. Negotiation has begun between the landowner and the Hill Group who will donate and set up the homes if agreement on the site can be reached. 	Fr Graham
8	<p>Caritas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teresa is speaking to Sr Silvana about St John Fisher School and the future of the Caritas role in the parish. • The monthly Food Bank collection, with the support of the SVP group, has started well with 3 cars delivering 149 kilos of food in February. 	
	<p><u>Future dates:</u> Tuesday 11th May 2021 7:30pm – PPC</p>	

Signed..... Date.....

Initialed.....