

St John the Baptist and St Kentigern Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom video conferencing on 6 August 2020

1. **Opening Prayer:** Fr Jeremy opened the meeting with a prayer that our deliberations would come to fruition in the good of all.
2. **Present:** Fr Jeremy, Karen Birnie, Janice Gomez, Marlene McCallum, Rita Phillips, Peter Robertson, Anne Simpson, Martin Spears
3. **Apologies:** Brian Murray
4. **Matters Arising from Meeting on 16 July 2020**
 - a) **Parish Outreach post-lockdown:** Fr Jeremy would take the recommendations made at the previous meeting to support the work of the Corstorphine Community Hub, Fresh Start, the Bethany Trust and the Food Bank to the Finance Committee which was due to meet on Tuesday 11 August.
 - b) **Mass arrangements:** The use of sashes for volunteers had been well organised with different colours for masses so that they were not reused too soon. See item 5 for review of arrangements.
 - c) **Eco-congregation:** Fr Jeremy said this was a work in progress.
 - d) **Dog fouling of St Kentigern's grounds:** Anne to find out if Edinburgh Council could provide an appropriate sign. If not, one could be improvised. **Action: Anne**
5. **Review of Mass in churches**
 - a) **Assessment of current practice**
 - It was decided that the current number of six volunteers could be reduced to four at the three main weekend masses, three on a Sunday afternoon and two on weekdays, when people could choose their own seats. Attendees could be asked if they would be willing to help with cleaning after Mass.
 - In response to feedback Fr Jeremy had decided to introduce the measure of seating those who said they would not be receiving Holy Communion at the back of the church, but welcomers were not to ask anyone about their intentions.
 - One welcomer standing in the aisle directing people to seats seemed to work well rather than people being led to seats. Only one volunteer was needed to direct people at Communion time.
 - Newsletters could be handed to people as they arrived.
 - Booking by Eventbrite was working well although it was perhaps necessary to tell people that if they needed to cancel they could do this via the confirmation email they would have received on booking.
 - b) **Livestreaming from churches**
 - Fibre broadband would be needed for St John's.
 - Audio from the camera would be linked to the church audio.
 - Mass would not be broadcast on Facebook but could be sent to a hosting site to which people could be directed.
 - A recording could also be made available so the housebound and sick could view at a time when they felt able to do so.
 - Concerns were expressed that, depending on the position of the camera, it would be possible to see some of those present and this might contravene Data Protection regulations if explicit consent was not obtained from all. Fr Jeremy to make enquiries to see how other parishes have tackled the problem. **Action: Fr Jeremy**

c) Children's Liturgy

- A parish children's liturgy on Zoom was suggested and it was thought that with the children returning to school it might be easier to find out how many would sign up to this.
- It would also be necessary to discover what would be the best time for children and parents to join in with an event.
- Martin pointed out that Zoom terms and conditions prohibited children under 16 from participating unless it was through a school account, so another video conferencing platform might be needed.
- Leaders would need to volunteer and appropriate safeguarding put in place.

6. Any Other Business

- Peter raised the possibility of card payments for church collections and the practicalities of donating on the way in or out were considered, and also the costs of the service. Father Jeremy intended to discuss it with the Finance Committee. It was thought that any contract with a service provider would be better at an archdiocesan level.
- Rita asked about the possibility of reintroducing the Sign of Peace. The current guidelines mean it is omitted but consideration could be given to bringing it back in a more distant form.
- Janice asked about First Holy Communions. Fr Jeremy will be discussing this with the headteacher and parish catechists. Preparation may have to take place with a certain number of children. There was a plan for children not at Catholic schools to have classes in the hall where it would be possible to socially distance. It was hoped that a ceremony for those who should have participated this year could take place in the autumn. Also Primary 7 children would be prepared for Confirmation in May 2021.

7. Date of next meeting: Thursday 3 September at 7.00pm

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 8.50pm.