

ST ALBAN AND ST STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Report from the meeting on 10th February 2021

The PPC has continued to meet monthly during the lockdown using Zoom technology.

Advent and Christmas Services: The Advent Talks were very well received and attracted much larger audiences than usually come to the parish hall. The virtual Christmas services worked well, and the PPC thanks everyone involved in the arrangements, particularly the musicians. The position of the crib under the main altar was a great success, as was the outside crib which was viewed by parishioners and passers by.

Lent and Easter Services: Because of the pandemic lockdown, there can be no additional public masses on Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be available in envelopes, for people to use at home. Depending on government rules, some Holy Week services may need to be streamed only. It is hoped that similar arrangements used for Christmas will be implemented. On Easter Sunday, it is planned to have one streamed Mass with music and a further two public Masses with no music. There will be a Penitential Service on Saturday, 20th March at 10am. Stations of the Cross will be streamed on the evening of Good Friday. Stations of the cross will be streamed each Saturday during Lent at 10am.

Lent Talks: Parishioners are encouraged to join one or more of 3 suggested opportunities to deepen faith during Lent: join a Faith Sharing Group; participate in the CaFE course Strength to Strength; journey with the Lenten Bible Series.

Parish Assembly: The Assembly will be held on Saturday, 12th June, by Zoom if we are still unable to gather physically. Fr Michael has drafted a vision, based on the thoughts expressed in the Advent talks and highlighting areas of priority for the parish going forward. This will be published in the Bulletin and on the website and via the parish email distribution list, and parishioners will be invited to give feedback during late February and March. Suggestions will be reviewed and the vision refined as needed in April. During May we will develop a proposed structure of the PPC to focus on agreed priorities for the parish over the next 3 years. In the June Assembly, we can seek parishioners who are committed to help develop implementation plans for the priorities and elect the new PPC members.

Mass Schedule: The Re-opening Planning team met in early February and agreed that the current schedule of public Masses (Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10am and Monday and Wednesday evening at 7pm) will continue given the ongoing lockdown.

Sacraments:

Confirmation: It is hoped that last year's Confirmands will be confirmed before Pentecost. This year's Confirmands will begin their course towards Autumn.

First Holy Communion: It is planned to have First Reconciliation by the Summer and First Holy Communion in the Autumn.

Finances: The accounts for 2020 have been submitted for Diocesan approval.

CAFOD Family Fast Day: Friday, 26th February. An appeal will be made via the Bulletin.

Sunday Parish Virtual Coffee Break: continues at 10.30am to 11am via Zoom

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 10th March 2021 at 7.45pm