

# ST ALBAN AND ST STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

### Report from the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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

**PPC team:** As a reminder, the following people make up the PPC: Fr Michael, Fr Julian, Deacon Steve, Peter Berners-Lee, Stan Grabecki, Ann Hill (Secretary), Dave Markham (Youth team rep), David Myles (Vice Chair), Melanie O'Neill (Chair), Anne Romain (J&P team rep), Sylvia White (Mission team rep). Sara Nash attends as needed for Liturgy team items. There is a vacancy for a Parish Friends rep.

**Lent and Easter Services:** The services will be very different from usual following advice from the Conference of Bishops and the need to continue social distancing. Holy week services will be shorter than usual and communal singing will not be possible. Although it is hoped to have music at most of the Holy Week services, with musicians socially distanced in the organ loft. Details of the times of masses for Palm Sunday and the Holy Week services have now been published in the bulletin. Pre-booking will be required. Stations of the cross continue to be streamed each Saturday during Lent at 10am.

**Saturday vigil and Sunday Masses:** It is planned to open these to public attendance from the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> March. Pre-booking is required.

**Weekday Masses:** Masses at 10am on Tuesday and Thursdays and 7pm on Mondays and Wednesdays continue to be open for public attendance. All other weekday Masses are streamed only.

#### **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.

**Parish Assembly:** The Assembly will be held on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> June by Zoom if we are still unable to gather physically. Fr Michael has drafted a vision, based on the thoughts expressed in his Advent talks and has suggested areas of focus for the parish going forward. This has been published in the Bulletin, on the website, and via the parish email distribution list, and it has been posted to the parish Facebook group. Parishioners have been invited to give feedback during late February and March. Suggestions will be reviewed and the vision refined as needed in April. In May, the proposed priorities for the parish for the next 3 years will be published. In the June Assembly, parishioners who feel committed to help implement the priority will be asked to join teams to develop implementation plans. A prayer card will be produced to unite us in a prayer for discernment of our priorities and for involvement of parishioners in the Assembly. Existing parish and school groups will be engaged in discussion of the priorities and in prayer for the Assembly. A big effort will be made to reach as many parishioners as possible in the discussion.

**Parish Assembly Planning Team:** a sub team of the PPC is working with Fr Michael to plan the details of the Assembly with the help of an external facilitator. The team members are Ann Hill, Dave Markham, David Myles, Melanie O'Neill and Sylvia White. Please contact any member of the team with any questions you may have.

**Strategy Groups:** reports were received from Liturgy, Mission team, J&P team, CTSA and City Centre Churches.

**Finances:** The accounts for 2020 have been submitted for Diocesan approval. The Finance team met on 9<sup>th</sup> March and agreed a budget for 2021 in compliance with audit recommendations.

**Communication Team:** 5 people have volunteered to work on parish communications with Fr Michael.

**Sunday Parish Virtual Coffee Break:** continues at 10.30am to 11am via Zoom. Details under Parish News on the website.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.45pm