

Holy Rood Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 27th April 2017 7.30 – 8.35pm

Present: Canon John, Marguerite Holliday (Chair), José Almeida, Giselle Almeida, Noreen Bint, Eileen Eastlake, Clare Kingston, Pas Mazzotta, Sister Mary.

Apologies:

Marguerite opened the meeting with prayer and began by summarising the document covering the areas we had discussed in three small groups at our February meeting: Prayer, Mission and Communion. There was general discussion of all three areas, in order to formulate a plan of action.

Prayer

We need to help people to appreciate different ways of praying, through prayer information cards and leaflets and through teaching during mass and elsewhere. Perhaps the Adult Formation group could organise some focus on the Rosary in October? There was general agreement that people make little response to anything new and unfamiliar that is happening, whether it is announced in the Bulletin, on the website or in notices at the end of mass. The most effective way to involve people is personal invitation. Canon wishes to formalise the times when the Rosary and the Prayer of the Church take place. Each could happen four times a week. It was suggested that there could be monthly prayer intentions for the Parish, in which the housebound should also be involved. (See list below)

Mission

We need to continue and increase our commitment to justice and peace. Good communication is important. We must educate more people to use our audio-visual equipment. It would be best if some of the young adults could do an appeal at all masses for people to be trained to use the technology. (It would enable the 11am mass to dispense with hymn books!) People respond to personal appeals such as the recent one for East Africa, so it would be good to have speakers from, for example, the Food Bank or The Harbour so that people would understand more about the social teaching of the Church and why Holy Rood Parish is involved. We need to find ways to reach out to those who have left the church or who are searching for faith and those who are physically or mentally ill.

Communion

We need to continue initiatives to build community. Meeting space is limited and this restricts opportunities for working together, for catechetical groups and for social gatherings. We need to address this issue. Marguerite informed the meeting that premises at Holy Rood, Upham Road are available on alternate Monday evenings.

AOB:

At present, only two groups (Justice and Peace and Adult Formation) send written reports to the PPC. Since their activities are obvious, does this need to continue or should all Parish groups send reports? No conclusion was reached on this issue.

At the Chrism Mass Bishop Declan thanked the many individuals and groups who had responded to the questions in his January Pastoral letter. Later this year, the Bishop will publish a document entitled "A Future Full of Hope" that reflects those responses and his vision for the future of our diocese.

Prayer intentions

It was agreed that all these required focused prayer so the following monthly intentions were agreed. We should probably produce between 200 and 500 prayer cards ourselves, in the first instance, rather than use a professional printing company.

MONTH	INTENTION	PREPARATION OF PRAYER CARD
June	First Holy Communion Candidates and their families.	Canon John and Anna Cummins
July	An increase in faith and the return to faith of those who have left the church	Noreen Bint, Adult formation and RCIA groups
August	Meeting spaces for the Parish and Parish activities	Marguerite Holliday and Clare Kingston
September	Confirmation Candidates and their families	Marguerite Holliday and Youth Ministry team
October	The Legion of Mary and their work	Canon John

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

Thursday 28th September 2017

Friday 9th February 2018

Thursday 26th April 2018