

## PARISH FORUM MEETING NOTES – 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

Meeting started with a prayer and a welcome Fr Philip to all attending.

An update since the last Parish forum meeting was given to all. A copy of this will also be available on the parish website. The next meeting will be held after Easter in April/May 2023.

Sat 5pm Mass – family friendly atmosphere, with hymns this weekend.

Welcomers – the rota is working well new volunteers are always welcome.

Retreats – Possibility of Parish Lenten retreat. Start at 10am and finish in the evening. Dates and times to be decided.

Sunday reading reflections – Kevin Hartley offered to produce these. They will be available on a monthly basis starting with Advent.

Walsingham – There will be a special pilgrimage to Walsingham to commemorate the group of men who walked carrying a cross from different parts of the country including Stourbridge to Walsingham in July 1948. It took them a fortnight. The parish would be grateful if anyone has any photographs or information about this that can be shared.

SVP update – 10 members plus 2 awaiting DBS checks. Visit 40 parishioners – housebound and elderly. Very grateful for the donations made by the parish this will be given as a gift towards the growing cost of gas and electric. Also, possible to give everyone a small Christmas gift.

Annual Report/Magazine - Deadline is the end of November. Articles will give a flavour of parish groups/activities rather than just a factual outline. These will be available to all and given to couples celebrating weddings and families at Baptisms.

Webcam – Costs the parish £1400 a year. An update on viewings will be shared. It is useful to have for those unable to attend funerals, weddings and baptisms.

Youth Group – Lead by Liam Thomas, most of the group at from the top classes in St Josephs. It is hoped once they go to Hagley they will continue to attend.

Servers – New servers are emerging. The request has also been shared in school.

Children's Liturgy – The feedback for the 5pm Saturday Mass group has been excellent.

Sacramental Programme – Changes were explained. First Confession will be celebrated in the Spring of Year 3 and First Holy Communion in year 4. Both A 10-week plan called "I want to make my home in you." will be followed. This is also used by all parishes in Wolverhampton. The changes have been well received in St Joseph's. Enrolment Mass Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 5pm, followed by sessions in the parish centre every Saturday at 4pm with groups for the both the parents and children. All of these have been put in place to integrate school, families, parish into one community.

Confirmation – It was felt by many that year 6 is too early. Fr Philip would like to raise this with the Archbishop via the deans.

Schools – Fr Philip now celebrates weekly Mass in both St Joseph's and Hagley. All covid restrictions have been lifted. Also hears Confessions.

Local Parish contacts – Parishioners have joined the Street Pastors and the Life Debt Advice centre.

Youth worker in the Parish – This is in the proposal stage – more details to follow.

Healing Mass request – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes – 5pm Mass with anointing. An afternoon Mass of healing will be celebrated after Easter.

Church heating – The heating will now be put on. It costs around £300 to heat the church for the 3 Sunday Masses. We are awaiting details of any rebate from the government for charities/businesses as our utilities are managed by the Archdiocese of Birmingham. This includes the presbytery as it is a place of work.

Commemoration book – idea was discussed.

The meeting ended with positive feedback.