

## SYNODAL PATHWAY MEETING – 7<sup>TH</sup> May 2024

Fr Philip welcomed everyone to the meeting and started the meeting with a prayer.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- What we do is good, but we need to reflect on this. Some of our activities are covered in Parish Alive and the synodal minutes. The afternoon tea with the SVP was fantastic. A question was asked if there was anything else apart from the lunches available for parishioners. Could there be an afternoon tea club 2pm – 4-30pm.  
Churches Together in Stourbridge meeting will be held in the parish centre on 22nd of May – parishioners are welcome to attend to see what is happening around Stourbridge. There is currently not much support for these meeting or for events and street pastors. A directory of events will be drawn up to share in the parish by Jackie Edmunds who attends the meetings. We will continue to advertise these events in the parish. It was made know that there is no parish representation at the Debt Advice Centre or Love Stourbridge event.
- Caritas – Do justice Group - Ken Baker volunteered to be the parish representative and will feed back to the next Synodal meeting.
- Living Springs - This was signposted to the parish by Fr Philip at Mass and in the meeting.
- Heritage Open Day – Jackie and Anne were thanked for all their hard work. It is hoped that this year's event will be more supported. Liam offered to write to all the schools and secondary schools inviting them to visit the Church.
- SVP – visit all denominations in the Stourbridge area.

### PARISH CENTRE

- We know it is unthinkable to see the parish centre demolished but it is costing more and more money. We have total savings of 1.5 million which should cover the cost of a replacement, more energy efficient, and useable building. If we can get planning permission, we could have two independently heated buildings – a centre with large hall and kitchen, and a separate parish room.
- A meeting with 3 Architects will be held this week. The views from parishioners will be considered where possible. A request was made for a chapel in the centre with a webcam.
- The meeting with Deacon Paul O'Connor the Archdiocese of Birmingham head of planning was very positive.
- Concerns were raised about the Christmas fayre – would the parish centre have enough room to hold such events if we lose one big hall. It is a luxury to have a building structured to accommodate one large event a year. The idea was holding this at school was also mentioned. We may need to review the way events are run but it would also give us 2 kitchens (one considerable larger than the present one), a storage room and more parking space.
- Foodbank – they may need to move. When the parish centre letter was discussed with them, they mentioned the new Church and Hall being built to replace Hope Baptist Church.
- Positive comments were received. This is a big legacy that we are able to leave for the future of the Church and serve the parish well long term. Fr Philip should be applauded for thinking ahead. The centre is a liability as it is and it could become an asset if replaced.

## WASHING OF THE FEET

- Simon presented the report about the washing of the feet (a copy can be found below these notes). Personal note from Simon he enjoyed organising this as part of community engagement in the parish. Someone stopped him in town a few weeks ago to apologise that couldn't make it. The team would like to come and meet with Fr Philip.

## YOUTH MATTERS

- Liam was disappointed that the Sleepover event has been postponed. He is currently looking at another date.
- Confirmation – 27 candidates were confirmed. It was lovely process.
- More now attend youth group. Possibility of growing 8/9 youth leaders.
- It's a Knockout in June. 6 or 7 young people compete against other youth groups.
- Summer Camp – looking at maybe 10 from the parish. Largest group other than Scotland
- Theology of Tap – the event has grown. The last session Mgr Tim Menzies was the speaker and the next is Fr Marco Egawhary who spent a month in the parish on placement. Another 4 sessions have been booked at the Old White Horse. Tim Chater the manager wishes to support the parish whenever possible. It was originally for under 30's but is now open to anyone over 18.
- Liam has visited sessions of the other sacramental programmes and thanked the leaders Anne and Patricia.

## AON

- A parishioner has expressed a wish to set up a parish ongoing support group for the charity Let the Children Live!
- One young parishioner is joining the Catholic Mission with the Archdiocese of Birmingham in Maui.
- HCPT – is looking to set a local HCPT group
- Concerns were raised about the state of parish cemetery.