

## **SUMMARY OF OUR LADY AND ALL SAINTS PARISH FORUM MEETING 7th JULY 2022**

It was agreed this summary would be given for those unable to attend in person.

A parish forum was thought the best way to move forward and it was agreed the next meeting would be held in Advent or early 2023. The meeting is open to all.

A suggestion was made that a list of parish representatives be created, with photographs and contact details on the board in the porch of Church. This would give parishioners a name (and a face) of who they could contact to pass on any views. Anyone willing to be identified (ideally from the 3 different Masses) please contact the parish office.

Through this forum the Synodal process would continue – Looking at how we move forward as a parish, try ideas that are suggested and get parishioners involved in the life of the parish.

The meeting focused on 3 things – as we can't do everything at once.

### **YOUTH WORK**

Youth Group – We are looking to restart the All Saints Youth Group, Liam Thomas, Lay Chaplain of Hagley School is looking for a group of volunteers to help him – can you help with this. Please contact the parish office. It would be wonderful if the parish could have 2 youth groups one for younger children and one for young adults.

Altar Servers – Fr Philip will try and get new recruits by visiting the schools. A request for a meeting of all Altar Servers has been made. This will take place at 10am between the two Sunday Masses.

Children's Liturgy – This would be short sessions, to give a sense of God, Jesus and Prayer. The simple sessions are the best. Fr Philip would be willing to meet with a group of volunteers to give guidance. It is very rewarding to be part of, and even better shared as a team. One volunteer has agreed to step forward. Sacramental preparation – there needs to be a renewal of the relationship between the parish and the school. School Masses were discussed – Welcome Mass, Leavers Mass, Mother's Day Mass. Much of this stopped due to the pandemic and covid outbreaks in school. The Sacramental programme needs to be revisited to include parents and children more in the life of the parish. Parishioners will be invited to attend School Mass – this must be done to conform with Safeguarding regulations.

### **SCHOOLS**

Any suggestions to deepen the links between school and parish and visa-versa were welcomed. St Joseph's Local Governing Body are also behind this. How do we get families to return/attend Mass every week and not just school Masses when they children are involved in the Mass.

A small group of parishioners are organising for the Church to be open one day in September as part of the Heritage Open Day. This would include conducted tours. As other Churches in Stourbridge already take part, this would be a good way to making us part of the Community. This could be advertised in School and hopefully families and staff will attend.

Climate Change– Live Simply Ideas for the parish. This was mentioned in the newsletter over a couple weekends; however, no responses have been received. The school could be involved in this. The idea of a Walk to Mass Sunday was suggested.

**ENHANCING SPIRITUAL LIFE** – The parish has bounced back very well since the pandemic.

Music - A discussion was held about the music at Mass. How can we make parishioners feel they can fully participate in Mass. It had been suggested that the Choir produce a sheet once a month so the parishioners know in advance what is going to be sung. Music could also be included at 5pm Mass with hymns. It was agreed that 8-30am Mass would be kept at the quiet Mass. Welcomers – Many of our stewards have agreed to stay on as Welcomers and a number of parishioners have also volunteered. More volunteers are very welcome.

Non-Eucharistic Worship – Rosary before Mass on a Friday will resume at 6-35pm. The Zoom Rosary is attended by 6 people between Mass anyone is welcome to attend.

Holy Hour – What time is good for people?

Retreat/Pilgrimages - If the parish wants retreats in both Lent and Advent, Fr Philip is happy to help with this. Walsingham will be a regular pilgrimage and we will look at the Lourdes Pilgrimage for next year.

Wednesday Sessions – There will be 4 sessions on the Liturgy and 4 Session on the Eucharist. Open to everyone both Catholic and Non-Catholics.

Parish Mission – the parish is not ready for this yet; this is something to consider for the future.

Penitential Service – The new Wolverhampton and Dudley Deanery selected one evening in Lent to have Confession available in all parishes in the Deanery at the same time. Penitential Service could restart, held in early Advent and Lent.

Adoration at the end of the Corpus Christi Mass was well received.

Offertory Procession of Bread and wine will restart. The collection baskets will be available before/after Mass and not be passed round as most people now pay by standing order.

Church being open during the day – it will be investigated how this can be possible. It could be open once a month on a Friday, a rota would need to be drawn up to ensure 2 people are present in Church at all times. It would have to be agreed that if someone didn't turn up at their allocated time the person before would stay. It was requested that the Church was just open rather than something going on so that everyone felt welcome to visit.

**Next meeting** – In early Advent or early 2023.

**ACTION POINTS** – Refreshments to be offered at the next meeting. The Finance Committee will be an agenda item at the next meeting. All who attended were asked to speak to others who may like to get involved but were unable to attend the meeting,