

**St Peter's Parish Pastoral Team Meeting.**  
**Thursday September 6<sup>th</sup> 2018. Started at 7.20 pm**

**MINUTES**

1. **Present.** Fr Peter, Anne Rogowski, Alison McGarr, Margaret Horan, Tony Cordes, Jim Burns (chair), Rachel McKay (minutes), David Small, Anne-Marie Bailey, James Walker, Terry Thiele, Sophie Hourihan.
2. **Apologies;** - Margaret Drury, Helen Lyons, Tony Shaw.
3. Minutes of last meeting already accepted.
4. **From Maintenance To Mission.**

Members of the parish participated in the Divine Renovation Conference in Twickenham last October and London in May. A day was also held in the parish in January. A meeting followed of parishioners to look at a vision for our parish in ten years time. Some parishioners have met with Fr Peter a couple of times since then to discuss what has been referred to as 'Project Rock'. Alison outlined where discussions were up to.

One area that has been discussed is the 'belonging' aspect of being in the parish. Focusing on the Sunday experience, making church a vibrant place where people want to be, that they feel part of and can get to know people. There is some disillusionment felt among our catechists who are working extremely hard but not seeing much fruit from their energies i.e. families, children, youth not returning to church once the sacraments have been received. The Sacraments can be regarded as a service industry. As a result, Fr Peter has a meeting planned with the primary head-teachers to discuss the way forward. There will also be a LPA meeting for all the catechists of all the sacramental preparation groups on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October**. One change made is that families apply to attend a course for Baptism of their children before looking at dates. Terry outlined what has happened to date with the First sacraments programme. Hopefully Youth Alpha will be run in the parish next year. Looking to move the focus from programmes to a process of belonging to our community. Putting energies into more belonging type groups where people can encounter Jesus and parish.

We've had one name badge Sunday at Pentecost. A further name badge Sunday is planned for **October 7<sup>th</sup>**. Teams of Welcomers will be needed for each of the three Masses.

The '**Footsteps**' programme started this week. Margaret particularly commented about how helpful and inspiring this had been. Around 115 people attended Mary Hardiman's talk. Future dates are Fr Eamonn Mulcahy – **October 25<sup>th</sup>**, Fr Pat Deegan – **November 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Fr Eamonn Mulcahy **29<sup>th</sup> January**, James Gallogly - **5<sup>th</sup> March**. Flyers are available at the back of church if PPT members could publicise these talks amongst their contacts.

There will be an **Alpha marriage course** commencing in January.

The **Alpha course** will be held on Thursday evenings after Easter in the parish centre.

Fr Peter has contacted the 'Catholic Bible School' with a view to them running a '**Bible weekend**' over the weekend of our patronal feast, **29<sup>th</sup> June**. He is waiting to hear back from them.

There have been discussions about the use of projectors and screens in church to further enhance the Mass experience/be a further resource for the parish musicians.

David highlighted that the fruit of our initiatives should be making new disciples. Some reflection is needed how we best use our energies to do this. Fr Peter felt the church has lost at least two generations of people – it is a matter of how we use our energies to challenge people. Disillusionment amongst priests and catechists is not just local to our parish but something that other priests and parishes are experiencing too.

Challenge to us – Do we really believe our message? Do we believe that we have a gift that we need to share with the world/ that the world needs? That we want to invite others to share?

Anne felt that Mass has not evolved as people have evolved over the last generation and a half. People are looking to be part of something but Mass in its current form isn't where people are. Possibly people would be more attracted to a more lively weekly celebration that wasn't Mass. Music/Homily at the Youth Mass on Sunday evening were more vibrant and powerful. People really joined in the Mass. Concerns were expressed about introducing a system where children/families had to opt in rather than being invited to programmes at specific ages. We may never be aware of the invisible fruits of our work/ possibility of some children losing out.

Sophie wondered if children's liturgy could be encouraged to sing more frequently at Mass? Could Youth Alpha be run in our High Schools? Margaret wondered if it would be worth holding a parish meeting to inform people of the changes. Would a parish questionnaire be helpful? Fr Peter suggested that it would be better for the PPT talk to people and tell them what we're discussing at the moment and ask them what they think? This could then be fed back to the next meeting.

**Action: - All** – Have discussions in the parish about what we've talked about and feedback people's thoughts to the next meeting.

The meeting closed with the Parish Prayer.

**Next PPT Meeting;** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Meeting starts in church at 7.00 pm with Exposition.

**Chair; - Jim.**

**Minutes- Rachel**