

# Parish Pastoral Council

## St Osmund's and Holy Redeemer

### Notes of the first meeting 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

President: Fr Anthony Paris

Vice President: Deacon John Proctor

Chairman: Dave Blake

Secretary: tbc

Present:

Alex John, Anita Pheby, Ariana Albrecht, Bincy George, Caroline Williams, Clifford Abad, Fr Jonathan Creer, Mike Huntley, Helen Burnell, Jason John, John Lester, Margaret Godwin, Mike Watson, Nick Cusack, Obiajulu Okusun, Pauline Oliver, Raiiti Clemence Lee, Vivienne Green, Marilise Smurthwaite.

Apologies:

Kevin Lynn, Jane Ranaboldo, Andrew Tucker.

Time for discernment and prayer was spent in front of the Blessed Sacrament in St Osmund's Church.

The Council reflected upon the following questions:

- What is my dream for the Church, for my parish so that it can become more outward-looking, more missionary? How can we make this happen?
- Who are the people who feel left out and excluded in the Church? How can we reach out, listen to, and love them?
- As a parish, do we know who are the people who feel marginalised or separated from the parish and society?
- How best can our parish respond?
- How do I hear and respond to the voice of God's Holy Spirit, in my life? What signs of the Spirit at work do I see in the life of my parish?
- What steps may the Holy Spirit be calling us to take, as a parish, on our journey together into God's future?

Three round table discussion were held, then members were asked to rank, using three voting dots each, the following issues that had come from the synodal discussions.

- RESPONDING TO FOOD POVERTY
- SUPPORTING THE LONELY/BEREAVED
- ACCOMPANYING MIGRANTS/REFUGEES
- ACCOMPANYING PEOPLE IN FINANCIAL HARDSHIP
- SUPPORTING THOSE SUFFERING FROM MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

- OUTREACH TO YOUNG PEOPLE
- HOMELESSNESS
- CARING FOR CREATION IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY
- JOURNEYING WITH THOSE WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED

**The top four issues were:**

1. OUTREACH TO YOUNG PEOPLE 20 votes
2. SUPPORTING THE LONELY/BEREAVED 9 votes
3. SUPPORTING THOSE SUFFERING FROM MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES 8 votes
4. ACCOMPANYING MIGRANTS/REFUGEES 8 votes

**The summaries of the three discussions were then fed back in a plenary session.**

- The Council recognised listening and journeying together (synodality) as the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Young people and families with children were a clear priority in all the discussions.
- Parents require support so that they can catechise their children.
- People need support from their infant baptism to their marriage. Different stages of youth require different kinds of support and these stages require different skills on the part of those providing support.
- Our community is seen by some to be inward-looking while being judgemental of others. We share a desire to increase bonds of closeness (between individuals and with other faiths / denominations) in order to encounter those 'others'.
- Who are the marginalised within our Church and society?
- Young families, those who are homebound, the elderly, young people, those suffering mental illness.
- In order to encounter marginalised and excluded people (divorced, homebound and elderly), we must work with the charities and services that provide services to them. Many of the synodal issues are dealt with through government services, so the Council will need to find the Christian element that we can bring to these issues.
- Excluded people may have vulnerabilities, some of which are found within all of us.
- The Council was agreed that social events and special masses (healing mass, prayer after mass, barbecues and other opportunities to meet outside mass times)
- Becoming one parish will require greater cultural integration than at present.

**Actions:**

Volunteers for the four priority groups to email their offers of support to Dave Blake by 30<sup>th</sup> March.

The four groups should have met and discussed a way forward on their issue by 11<sup>th</sup> April so that their synopsis can be included in the minutes for the next meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

The Council required a secretary who will:

- Manage communications with Council Members
- Send out agenda and notes of meetings, having agreed them beforehand with the Chairman.
- Prepare notes of each meeting, including action points and any decisions and significant discussions.
- Assist working groups with communications, such as emails, contacts and on-line meetings.