**AMDG**

**June 2019 Parish AGM Notes**

As a Pastoral Committee, we have held 5 quorate meetings since our last AGM. All have busy lives and I am grateful to those who are able to attend. The meetings have now been held in Fr’s house in the Dashwood room. In no particular order, my remarks are as follows

1. We have lost a couple of stalwarts this year with Linda Bell moving to Coventry and the Lewis family house sitting in Southampton with a view to returning to Zimbabwe. Good volunteers make such a difference and their commitment was very much appreciated.
2. The Sacramental programme was run by Sarah Hodgkinson again year and it has been a successful outcome for our candidates for Confirmation and First Communion. Thank you Sarah and the team
3. Advent Services: all went well this year, and our thanks to Sara Hodgkinson, Lucy Harrison and John Thomasson for their leading efforts with the family Vigil and Midnight masses. And for the Turner/Harrison family with their musical input.
4. The Easter Triduum was wholly shared with the College retreatants. Again on behalf of the Parish I would like to extend thanks to John Thomasson for his lead in this, and the Easter services booklet produced by Frances Ahearne. The Friday Stations and Good Friday Services were well supported by the Parish.
5. The Diocesan Renewal Programme instigated by Bishop John continues apace, and now into Stage Two. Our thanks to Lucy Harrison for volunteering to replace Margaret Lewis as the Parish liaison Rep.
6. Jesuit Parish community: three from the Parish plus Fr Tim attended the York Jesuit Parish conference. We meet with the 12 or so Jesuit Parishes and Spiritual Centres from across England and Scotland, and share discussion points, good practice and work more closely with the Jesuits. It is business and social as well as spiritual. Just as a reminder to us all, Father General’s four priorities for the Jesuits – which includes us – are:

* Promoting discernment & the Spiritual Exercises
* Walking with the excluded
* Caring for our common home
* Journeying with youth

The Parish Council has reviewed how we meet these priorities so far, and we have decided to focus more on

Environmental aspects of our Parish and Parish lives. More to follow.

1. Cemetery update: thanks to the volunteers Kaz Poloczek, Bill Holden, myself, new recruit Roger Holden and the boss Bernard Holden; there are no major tree managements this year, though some large branches have come down in the early Spring gales. The volunteers greatly appreciate the support and thanks from Parishioners and visitors alike. We want to consult with the Parish this Summer about some signage at the entrance to the cemetery particularly for guidance for visitors.
2. St Joseph’s Chapel team lead by Mary Bailey: our thanks to all the volunteers associated with the Chapel for Mass preparation, chapel cleaning and vestment cleaning. It is a popular Mass venue and the work done by the volunteers reflects well on the Parish
3. Rosary Wednesdays have been a wonderful example of Parish members’ initiative and generosity. I think they have been both prayerful and sociable experiences. Thank you to the hosting householders.
4. Heating: we are joining the College heating system and it will not be cheap. But we hope to be less distracted by the cold and look after both ourselves and the Church itself.
5. H&S: we have had an inspection of the Church, chapel, sacristy and cemetery by the Provincial H&S officer, and a number of changes have occurred which were not major but just to keep up to date. An example being a glass panel on Father’s Church office door.
6. Music: we have now a back-up iPod system for St Peter’s which covers any lack of organist for a service. It has been an interesting listening experience as there is only one pace and there is not always an introductory pre-amble!
7. Churches together: we have very good relations with St John’s and there have been many examples where services or charitable causes have had support from the wider Christian community. And the delivery of lunches and socials by both St Joseph’s School and the Pedro Arrupe Society from the College have been fun and worthwhile
8. Parish website: now includes more guidance for prospective couples applying for their wedding to be held at St Peter’s. Our thanks to Peter Nicholson who looks after this technical aspect of our communication with the wider world.
9. Repository: thanks to Cath Poloczek for looking after the sales, stock and orders. And for including St Joseph’s Chapel with a mini shop.

I hope this is a reasonable summary of the past year in our Parish. Our thanks go to all the volunteers for their time, commitment and service in running the Parish activities but also helping our overall Mission to serve the Lord and our neighbour.

Thank you

**LDS**