



## **Parish of St John Paul II, Nottingham: Parishioner Forum Meeting- 22nd March 2025**

Attendees: Isaac Amieghemen, Julie Blazewicz-Bell, Reg Carter (Chair), Serina Dougal (representing Good Shepherd Academy) , Peter Hanson, Theresa Joseph, Graham Lea (representing Christ the King Academy), Ann Lynch, Fiona MacKenzie, Philip Martin, Janet Myers, Michelle Swann, Christine Thomas and Sarah Williamson.

Apologies: Julian Caesar, Nicky Gudgeon, Moira Hodgkinson, Ron Lynch and Maggie Tempest.

### **1. Opening Prayer**

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Reg. A special prayer was offered for Linda Bussey who passed away earlier in the week, and for the intentions of Mike Bussey and his family.

### **2. Notes/follow up of the previous meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

The notes from the previous meeting, held under the auspices of the former parish think tank, were accepted as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.

**ACTION: Philip** to post the notes on the parish website and the noticeboard in the Good Shepherd church narthex.

### **3. Parish social media & communications policy/calendar**

Sarah led consideration of the parish calendar for 2025.

Sarah will incorporate various additions to the calendar which were discussed at the meeting and will in due course send an updated version to Philip to circulate to the forum. **ACTION: Sarah/Philip.**

Colleagues to advise Sarah if any other changes to the calendar are required.

**ACTION: All.**

The following additional points were discussed:

- The parish communications team is responsible for branding parish communications and for ensuring consistency in terms of messaging.
- It would be helpful if last year's very successful flower festival could be repeated in 2025. **ACTION: Michelle** to discuss this suggestion with the parish flower group.
- Dates have still to be agreed for the proposed concerts by the Cantamus Girls' Choir at a Summer event at the Good Shepherd Church, as well as a carol service at Christmas 2025. **ACTION: Julian** to advise further in due course.

#### 4. Parish pastoral team - feedback

Sarah advised that the parish pastoral team engages actively with Fr Philipp about various issues, including feedback from meetings such as the parishioner forum. Recent discussions have focussed on:

- The development of the new parish website.
- The formation of a men's group- an initial planning meeting needs to be arranged as soon as possible, with a coordinator to be identified.
- The new RCIA programme.

It was again emphasised that it is not necessary to delay progressing initiatives by seeking Fr Philipp's specific involvement; it is acceptable in most cases to progress developments and simply keep Fr Philipp informed.

#### 5. Confirmation Programme 2025

Sarah led consideration of the programme which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The following points were made:

- The programme is now organised on an annual basis.
- 24 students are currently on the 2025 programme.
- The Alpha Youth series is now incorporated within the programme and has been positively received.
- A number of keen musicians have been identified in the group, with the hope that in due course a parish youth choir/music group may be formed.
- All youth activities in the parish should be coordinated through Sarah and the Confirmation programme team.
- Peter mentioned that the parish youth group is developing well, with 24 young people attending its most recent meeting.

#### 6. Jubilee Pilgrim Trail

Philip outlined the arrangements which have been put in place to support the Jubilee Pilgrim Trail which has been developed in the Good Shepherd Church and which was inaugurated at the Bishop's Lenten Station Mass on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025. A visit by Year 2 pupils from Good Shepherd Academy has been organised in consultation with Fr Philipp on the morning of Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April. A visit from pupils, staff and parents from Hucknall Holy Cross School is also to be arranged in due course.

It was agreed that the parish should continue to publicise the Trail- it was noted in this respect that a banner outside church is now on display. **ACTION:** Sarah to promote through Instagram etc; **Philip** to draft further notices for the parish newsletter.

#### 7. Safeguarding

Christine reported in Julian's absence:

- Julian requires details of the parish youth group's volunteer helpers so that their DBS status can be reviewed. **ACTION: Peter**
- The parish annual risk assessment is due in January 2026.
- DBS renewals are underway at both our churches.
- The DBS Level 3 training requirement has been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The training can be carried out on-line. Eligible volunteers should have received an email from Julian with a link to the training- Sarah to send Philip the email/link so he can circulate it. **ACTION: Sarah/Philip.**

## **8. Any Other Business**

**a) *Wednesday prayer group-*** Ann reminded colleagues that the prayer group is an intercessory group and that confidentiality of prayer requests is ensured. Requests for prayers can be sent to Ann on a confidential basis. It was agreed that the group should be publicised more actively within the parish. A parish prayer box could perhaps be developed to enable parishioners to request prayers for their intentions. **ACTION: Ann** to pursue as appropriate.

**b) *Coordination with parish ministry leads-*** Reg suggested that parishioner forum members could helpfully meet with parish ministry leads every few months to facilitate better coordination across the parish. A proposed rota is to be developed to support this approach: members of the parishioner forum to consider the rota and confirm their availability in due course. **ACTION: All**

**c) *Parish feedback-*** It was mentioned that the parish is looking to develop appropriate ways, such as a suggestion box, to enable parishioners to provide feedback/suggestions for consideration.

**d) *Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes-*** Julie suggested that the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes could be more effectively promoted within Christ the King Academy with a view to encouraging more students to volunteer to attend as helpers. It was felt the Academy could also helpfully consider strengthening its links with the parish Confirmation group. **ACTION: Graham to pursue.**

It was explained that the parish has set up the St John Paul II Youth Foundation to provide financial support for young people in the parish who might wish to attend Lourdes as helpers and also to attend the annual World Youth Day which St John Paul II established.

## **9. Date of the next meeting**

The forum's next meeting is scheduled for 10.00-11.30am on Saturday, 24th May 2025.

## **10. Closing Prayer**

Reg led the forum in the closing prayer.