



## **Parish of St John Paul II, Nottingham: Parishioner Forum Meeting- 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Attendees: Isaac Amieghemen, Julian Caesar, Reg Carter (Chair), Nicky Gudgeon, Peter Hanson, Moira Hodgkinson, Theresa Joseph, Ann Lynch, Fiona MacKenzie, Janet Myers and Christine Thomas

Apologies: Julie Blazewicz-Bell, Ron Lynch, Philip Martin, Michelle Swann and Sarah Williamson.

### **1. Opening Prayer**

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Reg, utilising prayer cards provided by Theresa.

### **2. Notes/follow up of the previous meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

The notes from the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

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

The following issues were raised:

- a) ***Petitions for Lourdes***- it was reported that this initiative had been very successful and that the petitions received from our parishioners had been placed at the Grotto at Lourdes during the diocesan pilgrimage in July.
- b) ***Education Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025***- it was confirmed that Christ the King Academy students will be supporting the liturgy at the 9.45am Mass at the Good Shepherd Church tomorrow.
- c) ***Parish website***- the new parish website is now up and running and is being progressively populated. Google searches on Good Shepherd Church now link directly to the new website, which is headlined as St John Paul II Parish, Nottingham. A new logo for the parish, reflecting the two churches it now serves, is actively under consideration. Parishioner Forum members are encouraged to visit the new website and send any requested items for inclusion to Reg/Sarah/ Rosemary Mahoney/Julie Rawding. **ACTION: All Parishioner Forum members.**
- d) ***Alpha course***- the new programme started on 11<sup>th</sup> September and is publicised on the banner outside the Good Shepherd Church.
- e) ***RCIA***- the new course starts on 5th October 2025, with seven people already signed up. It was reported that there was a steady stream of newcomers to the parish, particularly young people registering for Confirmation.
- f) ***Parish Youth Choir***- the newly formed youth choir is now in place and is going well.
- g) ***Defibrillator training***- Reg is following up the training needed for parish newcomers et al on the use of the defibrillator located at the Good Shepherd Church. **ACTION: Reg**

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

This item was not considered in detail in view of Sarah Williamson's absence. Philip will link with Sarah and arrange for the latest version of the calendar to be circulated to the Forum. **ACTION: Philip.**

### 4. Parish pastoral team - feedback

Reg provided feedback from the parish pastoral team which last met on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025.

Items discussed included:

- ***Parish calendar-*** Fr Philipp is keen to foster a forward planning approach and has asked for ideas for next year, bearing in mind 2025 is now mostly covered.
- ***Oscar Romero Mass*** - Tom Baptist, the director of chaplaincy for the Our Lady of Lourdes Multi-Agency Trust is to organise this Mass on a date to be confirmed.
- ***Feast of Christ the King (Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025)***- the youth group choir will be singing for the first time on this feast day.
- ***"Teology" discussion group-*** this is a new initiative, led by Peter Hanson, to provide a means for those who have been initiated into the Holy Catholic Church to continue developing their Faith through scripture readings and general discussion on Faith. It will be open to all. **ACTION: Peter** to liaise with the current bible study group to ensure no clash.
- ***Developing the parish as a missionary parish-*** it was recognised that we need to consider how best our parishioners can be energised to support the parish's missionary role. The Forum suggested that schools could be invited to church on the Day for Life in 2026 **ACTION: Reg** to consider.

### 5. Good Shepherd Church- Open Day

It was confirmed that the proposed open day will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025. Volunteers were requested to help with the proposed letter drop in the locality of the Good Shepherd church and a number of offers of help were forthcoming. It was also agreed that the event would be appropriately publicised and that a supply of invites would be provided to St Anthony's church's catchment area.

### 6. Parish ministries-standards/checklist

Consideration was given to the paper that had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. Points covered in the discussion included:

- Relevant responsibilities should be clearly identified for ministry volunteers as appropriate.
- Security awareness was important.
- Succession planning needs to be considered by each ministry, albeit the difficulties in achieving this in some ministries were recognised.

- New job descriptions for our ministries have already been drafted by the safeguarding team.

It was agreed that colleagues would feed back to Philip Martin within two weeks with any comments they may have on the proposed approach set out in the checklist. It was also agreed that all responses will be totally anonymised and after collation of responses emails would be deleted so there is no record of respondents' names.

**ACTION: All Parish Forum members/Philip.**

Thereafter, the checklist will be finalised and submitted for approval by the parish pastoral team, prior to it being issued to our parish ministry leads. **ACTION: Philip/Parish Pastoral Team.**

## 7. St Anthony's

Christine reported:

- ***Volunteer appeal-*** building on the successful presentation on volunteering made at St Anthony's, Christine advised that she would be prepared to give a similar talk at Good Shepherd Church at a time to be agreed with Fr Philipp, perhaps linking with Julian to combine this with a talk on Safeguarding Sunday. **ACTION: Christine** to confer with Fr Philipp and, subject to his agreement, to progress this in liaison with Julian.
- ***Mass attendance-*** there has been an noticeable increase in the number of young people attending Mass at St Anthony's each Sunday.
- ***Autumn Fayre-*** the annual autumn fayre at St Anthony's is to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Profits from the event will be shared on a 50/50 basis between the parish and two charities.

## 8. Safeguarding

Julian and Christine reported:

- ***Christmas bazaar at Good Shepherd-*** it was stressed that anyone playing the role of Santa at the bazaar must have received prior DBS clearance. It is important that sufficient time is given to enable the relevant DBS checks in this respect to be carried out by the parish safeguarding representatives. **ACTION: Philip** to advise the bazaar organisers accordingly
- ***Parish Youth Group/ Parish Choir-*** it was re-emphasised that DBS checks/clearance must be received before any adults can assist with ministries such as these.

## 9. Any Other Business

**a) Parish finance-** Reference was made to the notice in the parish newsletter on 27th July 2025 about the increased contribution required of the parish by the diocese towards the costs of its central support services. The following issues were put forward by parishioners who would welcome a response:

- There is deep concern that the diocese is taking more and more money from the parish.
- There is a lack of clarity as to how donations pledged by our parishioners under the diocese's Enabling Mission initiative juxtapose with the increased parish contributions required towards the diocese's central support services. Some have already cancelled the pledge they made and others are considering doing the same.
- To what extent has the parish benefited from funding from the Enabling Mission Fund- have we received any grants?
- There is an implied danger that parishioners will also cease their donations to the building fund if they think it is being diverted to the diocese.
- There are serious concerns that the diocese may be top slicing funding from the Christmas and Easter offerings which have been made by parishioners specifically for the benefit of our parish priest.
- It would be helpful to receive assurances as to whether donations made by parishioners for the purposes of the parish's building fund (also known as the parish debt) are ring fenced within the parish's accounts to fund the building work required to address the defective concrete affecting the Good Shepherd church building.
- It would also be helpful to know when the building work will commence.

It was agreed that feedback and comments on these points should be sought from the parish finance committee. **ACTION: The parish finance committee** to respond accordingly.

Finally, it was mentioned that given the collections the parish has for the building fund it was disappointing to note that little seems to be spent on maintenance e.g the ingress of water and damp showing on the sanctuary, a crack that has appeared on the Joseph Hall flooring, general decoration and appearance of woodwork, constant leaks outside the kitchen and by the bell tower. A query was raised as to whether the parish has a maintenance programme so that these issues can be addressed through parishioners' building fund contributions. If not, could one be put in place to avoid "emergency work" when matters have deteriorated and therefore possibly cost more to put right? **ACTION: Fr Philipp** to consider/advise.

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

The Forum's next meeting is scheduled for 10.00-11.30am on Saturday, 15th November 2025.

## **11. Closing Prayer**

The meeting was closed with a prayer led by Reg.