

Parish of St Hugh & St John the Baptist

Parish Pastoral Group

Thursday 1 February, 2017. 8pm

In attendance:

Rory O'Hare; Andy Homes; Pauline Lloyd; Celia McNally; Tom Kenny; Agnes McHugh; Brenda Ackroyd; Peter Livesey; Brendan Coyle; Frank Elder; Eddie Drozdziak; Angela Byrne; Bernie McNaughton; Fr Pat

Topic	Action
<p>Feedback from the Divine Renovation (DR) Conference: General discussion following the Conference at St Peter's (Sat, 27 Jan), which expanded on the Fr James Mallon book of the same name. (see http://www.divinerenovation.net/). Over 29 Parishes in attendance from all over the Shrewsbury Diocese and beyond.</p> <p><i>Feedback: Good practical advice building on the Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium; Good balance between the practical and spiritual; Useful for providing the tools to develop as a parish; Good focus on how to re-engage cradle Catholics; Dispelled myths (in particular surrounding Alpha); Motivational, especially in the sense that the original Parish of St Benedict in Halifax Nova Scotia was an ordinary parish with 'Ordinary' people; 'Inspiring' – not about a programme to follow – but an encounter with God; The DR model is not a template or blueprint to blindly follow, but a great starting point for parishes on which they can build their own path; Great sense of the Holy Spirit; Encouraging to see lots of people wanting to move their parishes forward; Lots of hope, and dreams for the future of the Church and our parishes; Great opportunity for the parish; A good reminder that the Church exists for those people currently outside of the Church – not as a blanket for those already in.</i></p> <p>There was recognition that our Parish already has a great many groups and active organisations. The DR model can help develop the structure around those groups and provide a gateway for parishioners both new and old to engage with many of the existing groups.</p> <p>Acknowledgement that we all may need to step out of our comfort zone as we embark on this journey.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The group agreed to commence with the DR framework, for transforming the parish.
<p>Alpha (https://alpha.org/)</p> <p>Based on the success that Alpha has had at introducing people to the Kerygma (the first proclamation), it was felt it would be beneficial to introduce an Alpha programme in the Parish. This would be complimentary to, not a replacement of any of the existing Catechesis currently taking place in the Parish.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rory/Fr Pat to circulate potential dates for Alpha;• Volunteers required from Pastoral Group to embark on 'pre-Alpha journey' with a view to

<p>Qn over the structure and timing of the initial course. Desire that it shouldn't clash with existing programmes (namely "Life in the Spirit" Seminar Series (6 week course from Easter to Pentecost), but still important to have the first 10 week Alpha course completed by July 20 (end of Summer Term).</p> <p>Invite should go out to whole Parish; Potential limit of 40 based on need to cater; Do we need external facilitators or is there enough experience within the current Pastoral Group; may be advantageous for a small group of potential Alpha hosts to take a "pre-Alpha" journey to familiarise with content and structure.</p> <p>Need to plan the dates for the second course alongside the launch of the first.</p> <p>The last day to launch the 10 week course to finish by 20 July would be 17 May.</p>	<p>being hosts for first course.</p>
<p>Communication</p> <p>It is important that we communicate to the parish about the direction that the Pastoral group is taking. We will try to communicate this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having reference within the Newsletter to the meetings; • Publishing the minutes of meetings on the Parish Website; • Through the homilies of Fr Pat; • Making available copies of Divine Renovation for reading; • Perhaps a coffee morning update; • Talks at Mass. • Do we need a Pastoral Group notice board? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rory to pass minutes to Julia to publish on Website; • Fr Pat to make reference and update through Homilies; • Fr Pat to purchase additional copies of DR for back of Church
<p>Parish Prayer</p> <p>We would like to encourage prayer within the parish to support the transformative work and to help guide us. Perhaps a shared prayer (the Amazing Parish prayer (https://amazingparish.org/building-blocks-resources/) was suggested as a starting point).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celia to print and circulate Parish Prayer
<p>Welcoming:</p> <p>One of the most fundamental parts of the Parish is the welcome provided to parishioners at the Sunday services. We would like to look at the roll of the Welcoming ministry within the Parish and expand on the current provision. Rory and Pauline to follow up with Julia and the existing members of the Parish Welcoming team.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rory/Pauline to follow up;
<p>Next Meeting: Thursday 22 February, 8pm</p> <p>Agenda: A Vision for St Hugh & St John: What will the Parish look and feel like in 10 years' time?</p> <p><i>A few thoughts on Vision coming from the discussions this evening: Parish should be a place of belonging; a home; a place of faith & community; a new and welcoming community for newcomers to the Parish/area;</i></p>	