



# Catholic Parish of the Immaculate Conception, Clevedon

## Parish Pastoral Council – DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Item	Action	Lead
1. Opening prayer – Fr Reg		
2. In attendance and apologies: Anthony Palmer (chair), Fr Reg, Vincent Mclaughlin, Peter Kehoe, Paul Stathers, Tom Osman (secretary),  Apologies: Fr Tony Baya OFM, Austin Davis, Anne-Marie Mitchell  The chair informed the meeting that Peter Kehoe had resigned from the PPC		
3. Minutes of the last meeting (13 <sup>th</sup> April) were approved.  Matters arising:  CTiC Picnic arranged for 13th July in the Friary Garden. For more information Contact: John Vaughan-Shaw / Tessa Lawrence  Easter Liturgies – went very well. Thank you to all involved and the significant input from VMcL.	to publish the minutes on notice boards and the parish web-site  Contact the parish CTIC representatives if you can help on the day	<b>Tom</b>  <b>All</b>
4. Feedback on the Annual Parish Meeting (20th April) West Wall Repairs: fund raising – Patrick Dillon and Vicki McHugh will produce a narthex display about the work needed and likely cost. There will be a big fundraising effort.  Parish financial accounts: income did not covered expenses last year. This is of serious concern. The Parish Finance Committee has responsibility for balancing the books.		

## 5. The Future of the PPC

Members discussed the paper written by the Chair, held over from the last meeting. There was consensus that the PPC needed to change if it were to better discern the pastoral needs of e.g. women, younger people, families, ethnic minorities etc.

The Chair read the following extract from Peter Kehoe's email in response to the paper:

*"I have no objection to the idea of having several parish meetings - calling them synods is, to me pandering to the elitist element within the church hierarchy. Synod comes from the Greek word "synodos" which translates as an assembly or a meeting - No more, no less.*

*Meetings to enable interested parishioners to express their views are an excellent suggestion – we held them several times including Project 15 and the more recent meeting after which Cathy and Jenny collated the ideas raised - from which I generated a mind map to display them and to focus attention for action and monitoring.*

*Can anyone remember any action that has been taken as a result of these various meetings – can anyone other than Tom and I find a copy of the road map and can anyone recall an action taken as a result of the meetings? I ask this not to criticise the meetings, but to highlight the fact that calling them synods will make no difference. It is our ability to focus on selecting specific items for planning and action and our willingness to monitor and follow-up on these plans to ensure that is our weakness -Summoning parishioners to so called synodal meetings will make no difference.*

*We have recently had Pope Francis' calling of the church members to local, regional, national and ultimately international synods. With what results other than the extra-long extremely wordy summarising report? Having read all 60odd pages I confess to having failed to identify a single element that impacts or affects the way the Immaculate Conception parish will operate.*

*The Diocesan Evangelisation Team recently published a report entitled "What we have learned from the Synod - so far!" It proudly listed five pieces of learning - these are ...*

- 1. The importance of prayer - Wow!! A truly astonishing lesson following a world-wide discussion!!*
- 2. The value of silence - A new learning, despite this being incorporated in the Prayers of the Faithful at every Sunday Mass within our parish and others no doubt*
- 3. A different kind of listening - This refers to listening to understand not to judge. This may be new to some, but it has been a fundamental part of group discussion for many a year. - Hardly a different kind.*
- 4. Discerning the Spirit - Pope Francis has been encouraging this since his consecration in 1992 - and probably earlier. Again an international gathering was not needed to discern this.*
- 5. Action - Sadly the article was unable to list any proposed actions.*

*Having tried to read the 60+ pages summarising the recent Synod - I confess to finding not a single benefit or other impact on our parish.*

*While Parish Meetings may be a good idea their effectiveness will be determined by the parish's ability to generate volunteers willing to run with the ideas, plan and achieve action and then monitor and review these to ensure results are achieved and learned from. To date, the parish's ability on this front is sadly lacking.*

*As for the PPC, I accept that it has become dysfunctional, "a talking shop" as Paul S describes it. Change is needed.*

*I oppose disbanding the PPC because I know it can and has worked effectively*

1. *The four part Evangelisation programme was born in and carried out by the PPC*
2. *The logistics ensuring continued worship during Covid were implemented by PPC members*
3. *Parish visits to Glastonbury, Harvington Hall, Downside and Mells happened via the PPC discussions*
4. *The Children Camp; Young People’s Working Group was formed by the PPC and delivered a children’s corner during Mass. Several Children’s Craft days were arranged and held along with work to enliven the Parish Carol Service and the Children’s Liturgy.*

*A PPC can and has worked. That it has become ineffective is the result of our conduct not of the structure. How many of us have actively invited other parishioners to join? How many of us have raised meaningful agenda items recently? How many of us have voiced concerns about items raised, postponed and forgotten? Mea culpa!!*

*I repeat that a PPC and and has worked - disband it at your peril it will be harder to resurrect.”*

<p>... The Future of the PPC ... (cont)</p> <p>It was agreed that the PPC will run a meeting in September, modelled on the approach of ‘prayer and reflection before discussion’ adopted for the papal synod and employed at the Diocesan day last Saturday.</p> <p>It was agreed that the term ‘Synod’ will be replaced by ‘Conversations in the Spirit’.</p> <p>It was recognised that a core group of parishioners would be needed to organise and collate the outcomes from these meetings. Such a group (the future PPC?), guided by the proposed parish ‘Conversations in the Spirit’, might be able to function effectively without expanding or diversifying its membership – which has been the perennial challenge AP’s proposal is seeking to overcome.</p>	<p>Produce and circulate the plan for the September parish ‘Conversation in the Spirit’.</p> <p>Report progress to the PPC meeting 8<sup>th</sup> July.</p>	<p>AP</p> <p>AP</p>
<p>6. Diocesan Day</p> <p>VMcL described the day he attended last Saturday. The focus was on ‘The Common Good’ and the implications of Catholic Social Teaching for all Catholics. Part of the day involved discussions following the ‘Conversations in the Spirit’ format.</p>		

<p>The PPC agreed his proposal to run a series of meetings for parishioners exploring Catholic Social Teaching and its implications for us all.</p>	<p>Organise and report progress to the PPC on 8<sup>th</sup> July</p>	<p>VMcL</p>
<p>7. Alpha Follow-up The Alpha participants would be meeting on Wednesday to reflect on and give feedback about the Alpha course and their experiences.</p>		
<p>8. Meeting the Dean Fr Reg gave permission for AP and VMcL to meet the Dean, Fr Anscombe, to consult over the plans and activities agreed in minutes 5, 6 and 7 above.</p>	<p>Organise meeting with Dean</p>	<p>AP</p>
<p>9. CTiC Report Picnic for all Churches – see information above</p>		
<p>10. Liturgy Group Report VMcL reported that there would be Taize Service on 14<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm at Immaculate Conception Church. The Service would last about 60 minutes and comprise prayers and religious chants composed by the Taize community. There would be musicians to support the singing.</p> <p>The First Holy Communion Mass will take place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 10am.</p> <p>The Going Forth Mass on 7<sup>th</sup> July will be an opportunity to engage with the parents of new communicants.</p>	<p>All members of the PPC are encouraged to attend in support of the children taking this significant step.</p> <p>All members of the PPC are encouraged to attend and welcome the parents of the new communicants</p>	<p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
<p>Dates of next meeting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 1900 in the Retrochoir</p>		
<p>Closing Prayer</p>		<p>Fr Reg</p>