

Emergency PPC discussion of change in parish priest

Thursday, 25 July, 2024

Present: Stephen Warde, Ronald Haynes, Roberta Canning, Edward Acton, Christine Knight, May Agustin, Margaret Martin, Michanne Haynes-Prempeh, Leonie Isaacson, Nora Darby. Fr Simon joined at the end of the meeting (as indicated below).

Our focus was on how we might contribute as a PPC to an effective transition to a new priest at St L's. We want to be proactive in organising that transition, in continuing the parish development work that has come from our synodal process, and in moving ahead with the life of the parish - not waiting for the new priest before taking action. We feel it would be helpful to create a 'self appraisal' of the parish that will enable the new priest to understand us, that could be a starting point for induction and for planning the next phase of parish life, and that could also inform future decision-making about the parish at diocesan level. One important input to this would be an 'exit interview' with Fr Simon. We'd like to write to Bishop Peter to let him know that, while we would prefer not to be losing Fr Simon, especially at this point in our development, we're actively planning to maintain momentum as our new priest joins us, and we would welcome the opportunity to connect with that new priest as soon as possible. Other specific things we need to plan for include a celebration of Fr Simon's time with us and a welcome event for the new priest to introduce him to parish groups (as we have done for both Fr Pat and Fr Simon). After Fr Simon joined the meeting he identified a couple of the things that any appraisal might need to highlight as issues/weaknesses for the new priest to be aware of - notably the stresses of welcoming homeless at the door, and of interacting with the travelling community.

Specific actions:

- Draft a letter to the bishop and circulate for comment this weekend; aim to send on Monday - Steve
- Create outline for self appraisal document over next couple of weeks - Ronald and Edward
- Arrange catch-up meeting (Zoom?) for mid August so we can keep momentum going - in my absence (from Monday) could someone volunteer to find a date/time that works for that (recognising that some people will still be on holiday), e.g., by organising a Doodle Poll?
- Other?

Agenda for next catch up call would be something like:

1. Any information on the new priest and/or response from the bishop?
2. Self appraisal document - progress and next steps
3. (If possible): plan/timeline for contact with the new priest and welcome event(s)
4. Plan for a celebration before Fr S's departure (which will be before 22 Sep)