

Bishop's meeting with St Laurence's Parish Pastoral Council,

24 June 2025,

Start: 7.00 pm

List of attendees:

Rt Rev. Peter Collins, Fr Robin Mampallithadathil CRM, Fr Alex Vadasseril CRM, Michanne Haynes-Prempeh (Chair of PPC), Steven Warde, Sarah Sykes, Geoff Cook, Edward Acton, Jim O'Sullivan, Leonie Issacson, Margaret Martin, May Agustin, Nora Darby, Roberta Canning,

Office manager: Emanuela Di Pietro (minutes taker)

Apologies: Guillaume Hennequin, Ronald Haynes

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Development of Diocesan policy on parish advisory bodies and implications for St Laurence.
3. Issues with Live Streaming
4. Sunday Mass Time Changes Consultation
5. Confessional and New Sacristy Arrangements
6. Safeguarding
7. Parking Contract
8. Questions and AOB

1. Apologies: Guillaume Hennequin, Ronald Haynes

2. Development of Diocesan policy on parish advisory bodies and implications for St Laurence.

Bishop Peter opened the meeting and announced that this was the last meeting held as the PPC is constituted now. In the new constitution of the PPC, there will be a maximum of 6 to 12 members. The new Parish council and all subcommittees will be reconstituted in the next autumn.

The PPC's role is to help the parish priest in the administration of the parish, considering the physical and spiritual aspects, and to take part in the mission of the church as a whole.

The PPC's core mission should be charitable service, serving the community for a mission, and instructing our youth. It is also important to foster a dialogue and cooperation with other community dimensions and other faiths.

The policy that will form the new basis for the future Parish Council is currently in evolution. The PPC structure should reflect the structure of the Parish and be as integrated as possible in it. The work of the PPC is for the benefit of the Parish and to assist the Parish priest.

The constitution of the PPC, as previously formed, did not have approval from the bishop. So, the constitution of the PPC, as it was so far, is now suspended.

ACTION: waiting for the Diocese's further developments of the policy regarding Parish advisory bodies.

3. Issues with Live Streaming

Fr. Robin expresses his concern regarding the live streaming. Since it is on and live 24 hours a day, it can represent a problem during confessions, especially if they are held in church and the first few pews. There are also safeguarding concerns related to it, especially when they are celebrating children's liturgies or funerals.

Bishop Peter appreciates that the livestreaming represents an advantage for those who are not able to come to Mass, but also hopes that it is not a disincentive for people to come to Mass. He also affirms that parish priest will take an apt decision on this matter.

Jim O'Sullivan, Parish safeguarding representative, confirms that there are these concerns related to liturgies involving children in respect of photography and video, since the livestreaming includes the video of the first four rows of pews.

The Bishop suggests displaying a declaration at the entrance of the Church, which specifies which rows are included in the live streaming.

Jim affirms that he is happy to remove the current notices and create 2 different ones, one for the CCTV and one for the livestreaming.

Steve Warde affirms that if it were set up to be switched on at certain occasions, probably people would not remember. Maybe it could be set up to come on at certain times.

Bishop Peter affirms that there should be some designated people assisting in that. Fr. Robin needs to determine when to have it on.

Jim thinks Safeguarding should be part of the conversation.

Helena insists that more people need to know how to switch it on and off, especially volunteers working with children and youth. Nora Darby reiterates that live streaming is very important for the elderly who cannot come to Mass because of their health conditions.

ACTION: Fr Robin needs to choose some volunteers designated to put on and take off the Livestreaming and organize a meeting with the tech group.

4. Sunday Mass Time Changes Consultation

Edward presents the results of the Sunday Mass Time Changes Consultation, which was conducted both online and on paper.

The results of the consultation indicate option 3 as the most common choice among the parishioners, which reports the following Mass Times: 8 am, 9.30 am, 11.30 am.

Bishop Peter underlines that option 3 reflects the current trends for people to eat lunch later on Sundays, with respect to the past.

He is also very pleased to know that the number of people coming to Mass is increasing.

Roberta Canning would have preferred the following option: 8/9.15/11.15 as she reckons there is not enough time to stay and pray after Mass if you join the 9.30 one.

The Bishop also underlines that it is important for the Parishioners to have a conversation after Mass, but preferably outside the church.

Michanne is concerned that the elderly parishioners coming from the Manor care home will not be able to make it back on time for lunch if the Mass time changes.

The Bishop suggests speaking to the providers and asking them to accommodate these people.

Steve was in favour of the 8 /9.15/11.15 option as the cost of option 3 could be losing people participating in the coffee and tea after the 11 am Mass.

Sarah affirms that they need time to set up the music for the 9.30 Mass, so it would have been better to have the first Mass at 7.45.

Leonie also points out that with more people coming to Mass, there will be a tendency to have longer Masses. So, this needs to be considered.

Steve appreciates that since Fr Robin has arrived, the children have had the opportunity to show the congregation what they have been doing during the children's liturgy. Even if this takes some time, it is still very good for the children to be involved in the Mass.

The Bishop suggests creating a new Ministry, appointing a parking attendant to manage the car park in between Masses.

ACTION: The participants to the meeting agree that the new schedule can be effective from September to give some time to the congregation to adjust. Appoint a parking attendant (Maybe)

5. Confessional and New Sacristy Arrangements

The Bishop agrees that the current confessional is not satisfactory, the Sacristy is too small, and the current situation is worthy of consideration as a project.

Jim wonders how much money we should invest in the project, but it is still unknown as we are at an early stage.

Fr Robin's suggestion is to remove the wall of the confessional.

Bishop Peter proposes involving a Diocesan architect. James Bibby could have a look at it and express his opinion, but he is not an architect, so a project will have to be involved. The Bishop is in favour of a designated safe area.

ACTION: First of all, involving James Bibby (Fr Robin)

6. Safeguarding

The main concerns have been discussed within point 3 (see above).

7. Parking Contract

Steve illustrates the parking situations and all the related difficulties.

Helena points out that the streets in the area will soon have fewer parking spaces available.

Maybe a barrier system could be put in place in the parking lot.

The Bishop suggests asking for legal advice within the Diocese, with the possibility to withdraw from the contract at a possible cost with help from the Diocese.

ACTION: seeking legal advice within the Diocese (Fr Robin).

8. Questions and AOB

- Edward illustrates to Bishop Peter the need to request from the Diocese some permanent help for Emanuela in the office. Edward affirms that the Parish has healthy finances, therefore we can afford to have another person part-time. The number of hours that both Emanuela and the second person would work is, anyway, less than a full-time position.
- Edward is now Chair of the Finance Committee, which is to be announced by Fr Robin in the next Newsletter. The Finance Committee has 8 members at the moment. Fr Robin affirms that there will be a reconfiguration of the Parish Council and Finance Committee.
- It is also announced that Davide Fiorentino has resigned as treasurer. So, now, Una continues to be our treasurer and operates. Fr Robin is in the process of appointing a new treasurer.
- As far as the Parish life and Ministry is concerned, Bishop Peter explains that there will be some strategic alterations to the areas of Huntington, St Ives, and Cambourne. Unfortunately, the situation in the Northern area will not change, and Cambridge will have to continue to function with 3 Parishes as it is now. Maybe one or two priests will be sent, but it is not sure yet. A lot will be happening in the next 6 months. The Bishop's vision is to enhance cooperation across boundaries.
- GDPR: Helena asks if there are any GDPR learning sessions planned for the Parish catechists. **ACTION:** Send a request to Paul Raynes to clarify and help with it.
- As far as the previous PPC is concerned and the Finance committee, the previous constitution of them is suspended but the Bishop agrees that the activities carried out by the subgroups should continue in the meanwhile until the new constitution will be done with the consent of the parish priest and they should make the Parish Priest aware of any activity that is carried out.

