

Chair's report, PPC Meeting 29.06.2020

Family Masses

There was one Family Mass immediately after the last PPC meeting and it was a great success. Caroline as usual led the music group and the school helped the children prepare the readings. After Mass, attendance at coffee was very good (as it had been at the service) and people were talking very positively about the Mass. The next Family Mass had been due on 22nd March and was being prepared for with much enthusiasm when Covid 19 intervened. Although at the time of writing it looks as though Masses will be able to resume from July 4th they will be limited to 30 participants and singing will not be allowed so it seems Family Masses are not going to be possible for the foreseeable future. Bearing in mind all our previous discussions about low Mass attendance from younger members of the parish, this is a great shame.

Diocesan Laity Meeting

This was due to be held in May but, obviously, was cancelled.

FHC

Of course this too could not take place as planned on 14th June and the hope is that it will be possible for it to occur at some point in the autumn. Becky has kept in contact with the FHC families and will be giving us an update at the meeting.

Covid parish life

Obviously it has been a great shock to have had the churches closed and no access to the Eucharist. We were already as a PPC very concerned about Mass attendance and the lack of participation in parish life of the children and young people and there must be some concern about whether people will have 'got out of the habit' of attending Mass. On the other hand apparently a quarter of adults in the UK watched or listened to a religious service during the lockdown. And some people, especially our own Cathy and family, have been very inventive about making Mass more accessible! During the lockdown the main means of communication with the parish have been Fr Charles' newsletter and the parish website, where Mary has done a great job in updating everyone on all the developments. However, not every parishioner visits the website or has access to the internet. With this in mind Felicity Todd came up with the idea of a telephone 'tree' whereby older, more isolated parishioners would be contacted on a regular basis by a team of volunteers. However, diocesan safeguarding guidelines were received which highlighted possible concerns about older, possibly more vulnerable, parishioners being telephoned regularly and in the end the telephone tree idea did not happen. So there will have been a number of parishioners who have had very little or no contact with the parish during lockdown. I think as a PPC we need to consider how that level of contact could be improved, though clearly much will depend on how things develop.

Shirley Kalinauckas

