

# First Parish Meeting - Monday 16th May

## **“What we can build on”**

- Taizé Music
- Newsletter for older generation
- Some people are just happy to come to church
- Would be good to proactively help bring young families back
- Don't leave old people behind
- Community outreach could be better
- How to get the word out to young families
- Community outreach could be better
- Coordination necessary. Communication to be built on.
- Group input but avoiding cliques
- Inclusiveness: home groups
- Inclusiveness: activity groups
- Welcome: to be built on
- Bulletin
- All groups to be welcoming, inclusive, all ages. Walking, all ages
- Taizé music services
- Community gatherings; summer/Christmas fetes
- Youth clubs
- Piety shop in Main Street
- Welcoming
- More summer activities
- For the people to get together, like garden fetes etc
- To get more young people involved
- Parish is welcoming
- Need to get more families back to church
- Altar servers
- There is a good sense of welcome
- Sunday mass is central; it's not perfect, but it is good and brings people together
- Need to encourage young people; those who come and those who don't
- Bringing people together for positive outcomes
- Facebook page updated regularly

- Variety of types of music
- Return of altar servers
- Mass is central
- Altar servers
- Music team: music to tie in with the mass, some like it as it is
- Encourage young people and families back
- Facebook posts
- Online masses and reflections
- Welcoming
- Good to have coffees on Sunday and small groups
- Bring back altar servers
- Return to precovid activities i.e. holy water and bulletins which are greatly missed
- More information activities within the parish
- Regular newsletters
- More social events to build sense of community, extend to wider community
- Ambassador for new parishioners
- More visibility of laity leaders
- More guidance from pass keepers
- Update from groups; highlights, opportunities, challenges
- Outreach: social events (no pressure, not “religious”)
- Open to wider community, show our welcome
- Continue to build on existing models: more organisation of social events, inclusion, what’s going on in groups
- Social activities inclusive of people with disabilities
- Who are the social activities organisers?
- Involve children
- Newsletter needs to be accessible
- Effective ways of communicating the parish news
- Novel group members to shadow experienced group leaders
- Children and young adults
- Communication
- Bring young Catholics into the parish eg group meeting between ages to discuss topics relevancy to them
- Encourage more people to be involved in ministries
- Better communication
- More communication
- Involve children, young and older

- Visiting homes by more parishioners

Notes from group feedback

- Updates from groups for booklet
- Social media team; Facebook, TikTok
- “Parishioner of the month” for the notice board?

## **“What we need to develop”**

- Queen Margaret Academy
- Weekly podcast as well as YouTube mass or Sunday radio
- Social media
- Sunday newsletter on paper not online
- Parish booklet
- Educate
- Keep online
- Advertise
- Groups encourage welcome
- Podcast
- Parish meeting
- Instead of shaking hands or nod (at mass) say “hello my name is...”
- During covid when people started to attend mass, it was a joy to have someone welcome you and get to know your name
- We also need more instruction on law
- People do not feel or know if they are good enough to join a group or ministry
- Get to know fellow parishioners
- Group for widening knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith
- We are good at focussing in on us; church, parish, less so at looking outward, could play a better role in the wider community
- There is a question around the role and effectiveness of Catholic schools
- Music/technology team
- Recordings of hymns
- Catholic faith under attack, possible group to help teach & defend faith
- More coordination between parishes
- Catholic schools need to be run properly with teachers who attend mass
- Listen with open minds and hearts
- Better communication
- Shared responsibilities with co-ordinated efforts
- Be willing to change & participate
- Ownership of responsibilities
- Welcome team
- Home groups
- Weekly bulletin
- Community building

- Consider resurrecting the Renew programme
- All groups need to communicate better
- A paper bulletin would allow groups to inform other groups and the wider parish of events
- Update in “Going Out” local paper
- Prestwick Prom?
- Shared leadership responsibilities

#### Notes from group feedback

- Need better communication
- Share ideas with equivalent groups in other parishes
- This is a welcoming parish
- We all need to accept responsibility for moving forward
- If you notice someone is missing, look into why
- Aim to know 50% of the names of parishioners

## **“What we need to address”**

- Focus on what we have right now. Prayer and focus
  - Children’s liturgy or Sunday school
  - Radio
  - Exchange parish, twin town, Lichtenfels
  - More open to the local community
  - Better and clear organisation
  - Pathways to establish both parish and diocesan teams
  - Relationship with youth; they are all different, with different needs. Some look for structure and church to be serious, others look for something different, something they find approachable
  - There is a need to look at the role of women in the church and clericalism
  - Up to date information on what is happening in the other churches in the community, as recently we have not been told
  - More information about other churches in the diocese.
  - There are differences between parishes
  - Ways to encourage the youth
  - The music in mass
  - Choir/music group
  - Folk/Taizé mass
  - House/home groups
  - Youth group
  - Outreach/work with other churches
  - What is dogma, what is not?
  - Guidance on doctrine: we may not be able to change it but more guidance on what/who is allowed
  - Inclusion
  - Too many grey area
  - Variety of music
  - Opportunity for youth retreats
  - Same sex
  - Addicts
  - Grey areas
  - Who is invited to dinner? i.e. to Holy Communion
  - Invitation to marginal groups
  - St Quivox open day/open doors (September)
  - Brighten up the outside of the church
- First Parish Meeting (responses - notice).docx

- I am trying to restart the Thursday Club but require someone to bring out (and put away) the equipment for the carpet bowls. Any volunteers? Otherwise no club.
- Why is there not more uniformity in the churches in the diocese?
- Invite young people to submit ideas to brighten up the outside of the church
- Offer the church hall to youth, one evening a week, let them decide how to use it

#### Notes from group feedback

- Importance of the relationships between home, school and church
- Use social media to make church/parish more attractive
- Youth retreats
- Adult retreats
- Celebrate world youth day in the parish; live stream some events
- Identify and reach out to those who may not feel welcome
- “No one is going to go through a door where they don’t feel welcome”
- Need to make the church appear more welcoming of all; it needs to be welcoming, but it needs to be seen to be welcoming too
- Movie afternoons/evenings for youth
- Engage with other local churches who will be facing the same challenges we are
- Don’t lose focus on the people who come to church
- “Control the controllables”