

CHRIST THE KING PARISH

Open Parish Meeting

Date: 11th October 2021 at 7pm

Fr Louis opened the meeting with a prayer and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Fr Louis & Deacon Tony made a presentation to the meeting

This is a brief overview of the presentation and conversation that followed:

Thank you to everyone who has welcomed us so generously to Christ the King. We are here to serve and lead the church and its people for as long as the bishop wants us to be here. Our plan and vision you will hopefully soon see is that everything we do and have at our disposal must be used for **'Mission and Evangelisation.'** This of course includes our church and our parish hall. This will be an ongoing objective under regular review. Very importantly, as priest and deacon we will only ever preach and proclaim the truth of the Roman Catholic Church. The spiritual and liturgical life of our parish is naturally central to our purpose.

Christ the King is already a welcoming parish, and it is clear that great work has taken place here. It is our joint task going forward as 'people & clergy' to seek to continue and to build upon this. We will always keep in mind that you never know what impact you can have on someone at any one point on their individual journey. How do we impact on peoples' lives? We must strive across our parish ministries to offer people an authentic, welcoming, and genuine encounter with Christ and his Church. We believe in the importance of charitable actions and as such wish to develop our Parish Outreach Ministry. We know how vital a resource the Wirral Foodbank is and acknowledge the great work taking place already. However, we believe that what we do at the front end of charity is also very important – in a spirit of mission and evangelisation we want it to be in the name of Christ. We want this parish outreach to be where possible readily available to those in any kind of need. It is already our experience in this parish that the need exists, and we have been able to engage with a number of families in need of a little support. If you can help, we gladly welcome Asda/Aldi Gift Vouchers or cash donations. Donated food will still be delivered to the Wirral Foodbank. **If you specifically want your cash donations to go to 'Wirral Foodbank' please mark it as such or alternatively as 'Parish Outreach.'** With this support and that of our SVP we will be able to reach out in the name of 'Christ the King' to families and others in need of some support within our own parish and community. If you would benefit from this assistance or know of anyone who would, please do let us know.

We intend to look at the different ministries that are essential and available within the parish and to see how we can develop them moving forward. How can we help you to help others? If you would like to be involved with a specific ministry, would like to try something new, then please speak to the clergy or the parish office and we can point you in the right direction. We strongly believe in having teams of people engaged in ministries, this enables as many people as possible to be involved and serves to make each ministry more robust and active. In every aspect of parish life we must say that **ALL ARE WELCOME.** We will look to make progress especially in 2022.

Our links with our Catholic Primary School (and other schools) are very important. We have introduced ourselves to the school, the staff, children, parents and grandparents alike. It is our intention to work alongside the excellent staff in developing every possible aspect of clergy presence, support and ministry. We need to build on this as a community and make the church somewhere families want to come together. Without the children and young families there will be a more difficult future for the

church. Encouraging the obligation to practice our Catholic faith is very important and we will always do this.

We are firm believers in the importance of the social life of the parish, including parish celebrations, trips and pilgrimages. We feel they are an important way of connecting with each other on a personal level. As an example, we hold regular trips to the Franciscan monastery in Manchester for the First Saturday Devotions and you are welcome to join us on. In time and when better post COVID restrictions allow, we hope to develop this aspect of our ministry and parish family. Please always check the newsletter for details of any upcoming future trips, pilgrimages and events.

Q&As from our Open Parish Meeting

Will the Gloria be sung at all Masses?

At present it will be sung on Feast Days and special events rather than regular weekend Masses, but this will be reviewed in due course. The hymn books are now back in circulation but we ask that you return them to the back of church after each Mass, so they do not get in the way of cleaning.

Will the rotas be going in the newsletter?

No, we would like to be able to use the newsletter to keep parishioners informed on upcoming events etc and as it is a primary source of communication space is already at a premium. The rotas will be going up on the noticeboards at the back of church as they did pre-Covid. You can take a copy of the rota home with you if you need to.

Is there a Bereavement program in the parish?

Yes, there is, but it is something we will look at expanding upon in the future. We have started the process by producing a parishioner Funeral Plan document, where you can outline your wishes for your funeral after you have passed. Experience in previous parishes has demonstrated the value of such plans. They also help us to plan and ensure the catholic identity and nature of the liturgy.

Are we still cleaning the church after masses to keep it Covid secure?

Yes, we are. Our team of stewards have been brilliant during the pandemic, cleaning after every Mass to keep our church open safely. This has not changed. We would still encourage parishioners to sanitise their hands on the way in/out and to wear face coverings whilst in church, but we recognise that there is no longer the legal requirement to wear masks and this is a personal choice.

What are the plans for Christmas?

We are still planning to have two Masses on Christmas Eve and one on Christmas Day. The exact times will be communicated in the newsletter soon. As part of our parish outreach, Fr Louis and Deacon Tony wish to invite anyone who would benefit from some company and good food to join us in our parish hall for a meal on Christmas Day. We also hope to be able to deliver some hot meals on wheels. If you wish to join us or know of anyone who would benefit from this, please speak to the clergy or contact the parish office.

Will the Mass times stay the same?

They will for now at least. We have no plans to remove any of our masses (weekday or weekend) but we could potentially move the 6pm masses to 5pm in the future. Discussions will be had before any changes are made. This was met with general support and no contrary objections or opinions.

Will the Children's Liturgy be returning?

A resounding yes. We can't wait to be able to provide this resource for the children and families of our parish. Whilst schools were maintaining 'bubbles' we didn't feel it was appropriate to encourage them mixing more than necessary but we are certainly looking at getting the Children's Liturgy back up and running in the new year. We will look at restarting regular family masses and incorporating the children's choir into the masses as well. All aspects of ministry for our children and youth will be considered and where possible progressed.

Will the choir/children's choir be back?

Our adult choir is certainly back, making an excellent contribution in singing at both our Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses by request. They practice in a covid secure manor on Monday evenings if you would like to join them? Speak to Judith or any member of the choir for more details. The children's choir is looking at restarting properly in the new year, but we need some more adult volunteers to make it a real success. If you can help on Friday afternoons after school, then please speak to Judith or Yvonne for more details.

A general conversation, some clarifications and an appeal for more volunteers then took place.

Fr Louis concluded the meeting with a prayer and blessing.