



Faith Formation Group Minutes



Date

5th Dec 2023

In attendance

David Hambley (DH), Theresa Little (TL), George Toal (GT), Kay Frizzell (KF), Fr Syriac (Fr S), Ruari Mulholland (RM) Paddy Mallan – Chair (PM)

Agenda

- 1) Welcome and Opening Prayer
 - 2) Apologies/Absences
 - 3) Previous Minutes
 - 4) Update on Advent Preparations
 - 5) Vision, Values, Aims template
 - 6) 2024 Operational Action Plan
- AOB
- Next meeting date
- Closing Prayer

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

PM welcomed everyone to the meeting and Fr S led the opening prayer

2. Apologies

Mary Horsburgh (MH), Hugh Reid (HR), Tim Hall (TH), Mike Glancy (MG),
Donna Mulholland (DM)

3. Previous Minutes

Minutes from previous prepared by DM were approved

4. Update on Advent Preparations

Update on Advent Preparations and other ongoing FF Activities

Ruari's Script/School Engagement/Future Advent Masses

Attendees discussed at length how the First Sunday in Advent masses had been conducted. Feedback was very positive from St M and HN.

RM advised that the script had been compiled from various sources. PM complimented RM and all involved on the script and the First Mass.

KF advised that the Children's Liturgy had been adapted to align fully with the Mass themes.

DH advised that he had had difficulty hearing the reader at the benches at the front of the church.

Fr S advised that the Mass at HN was extremely well received and the S6 pupil was from Oakley – which made a positive impact.

At St M teas and coffees were served following both Masses

DH asked who was organising Readers for the Christmas Mass at 8pm on 24th Dec

PM asked when we should be putting up the Christmas Tree in St M

PM asked when we should decorate St M with flowers considering the Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass finishes at 1030 on 24th Dec and Christmas Mass is at 8pm

RM requested that the 'Did you know' theme from the script should be referenced in Father's homily to enhance learning.

ACTIONS;

PM/RM to conduct Mic/sound check at Vigil Mass on Sat 9th Dec.

PM to ensure a note appears in the weekly Newsletter advising teas/coffees.

DH to contact Amanda and check reader arrangements.

PM to arrange for tree to be installed Wed/Thurs 20th/21st Dec.

PM to arrange florists to decorate church after 9.30 Mass on 24th Dec.

Fr S to incorporate 'Did you know' theme in his homily.

Advent Reflection Sessions

Excellent feedback was received from the Ladies Advent Reflection session led by Amanda Dellar.

There were 5 attendees at the Men's initial Advent Reflection session.

RCIA and 6 Sacraments Sessions

GT advised that there are 2 candidates this year engaged in the RCIA process.

8 parishioners have been attending the 6 Sacrament sessions. The sessions had been extended for a further 3 weeks to address the attendees' pre-Vatican II understanding of the sacraments.

5. Vision, Values, Aims template

PM advised that the updated VVA template had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Attendees discussed the Vision statement. It was agreed to change 'develop' to 'teach'. It was also agreed to change the order of the wording of the Vision statement.

A healthy debate ensued regarding the use of 'Catechesis' in the Vision statement. There is a desire to keep the wording simple to understand. The majority decided to retain 'Catechesis' although DH voiced disagreement.

Attendees also discussed the 8 Values. Comparisons were made to other gifts and fruits within the Gospels. It was agreed to adopt the Values. PM stated he would ensure all 3 Umbrella Groups would use the Values within their relevant VVA templates. Attendees agreed these values should be

evident and enacted within our Parish Community and should be more visible.

Attendees discussed the Strategic Aims. Discussion revolved around some of the words eg 'Choosing' and 'Living'. There was also discussion regarding the order in which we would wish to have the aims. PM requested that we initially retain the Strategic Aims and consider if we wish to change the order.

ACTIONS;

PM to issue VVA document with revised wording

ALL to consider the order of the Strategic Aims prior to next meeting

6. 2024 Operational Action Plan

We ran out of time to delve deeply into the Operational Action Plan. This item will be carried over.

PM asked attendees to review the examples of activities contained in the VVA template and try and align these under the Strategic Aims headings.

ACTIONS;

ALL to consider activities to be included in the 2024 Plan and to group the activities under the 6 Strategic Aims Headings. Please share your thoughts with other Group members ahead of our next meeting

Any Other Competent Business

PM commented on the notice in the porch advertising the online Diploma in Catechesis starting in Jan 2024. TL advised she had completed the Diploma, still has all the course material and asserted it is a tough, but very worthwhile course to undertake. Fr S advised that the Course Leader will be attending Mass on 17th Dec to promote the course.

Mentioning the names of the Sick of the Parish in the newsletter and at the bidding prayers was discussed. GDPR may impact on quoting names in the newsletter. It was agreed that a card/form be designed for the Sick of the Parish to consider submitting allowing their names to be mentioned/quoted in the Newsletter and/or in the bidding prayers.

ACTION; PM/GT to design form. Fr S to incorporate in bidding prayers/newsletter when authorisation forms received.

Reminders were noted of Mass for the Sick 13th/16th Dec.

Advent Retreat and Service of Reconciliation Thu 14th dec

Next Meeting Date

Thursday 25th Jan 2024 7pm Presbytery

Closing Prayer

KF led the Closing Prayer
