

Parish Advisory Council Update – September 2023

We have a Parish Advisory Council and we meet every two months to look at what is happening in the parish and to guide Fr Naz in his decision making. We also look at how we can engage with parishioners, the school, and the wider community to bring Christ into our everyday lives. Here is a flavour for what we discussed in our meeting last Sunday.

Each meeting takes a whistle-stop review of finance matters, maintenance projects, and pastoral ideas and plans. All these areas have separate groups already so the role of the PAC here is an overview one only. As a parish our income is less than our outgoings and we talked about what we can do to bridge the gap. We have a sub-committee already looking at way to mark our 150th anniversary in 2026 – they will meet to come up with ideas that can be then explored and whittled down as we move towards our 150th anniversary. One idea that we will be taking forward is the refurbishment – cleaning, regilding, removing dents, etc – of church silverware: more on that in the coming months.

We talked about the role of Parish Administrator. A job specification has been prepared with the help of the PAC and Fr Naz will be helped further in the recruitment to this important role. On another practical note we looked at plans to refurbish the McEnnis Room and financial help towards the cost of refurbishing the rather dated (but still functional) church toilets.

We talked about the way we are set up: what does a good PAC look like and do? Our structure has been the same for a long time so reviewing it could yield fruit in terms of borrowing from other parishes or indeed validating what we do and how. This will be an ongoing mission. Several of PAC will look at this in more detail and report back.

We have engaged with St Winifride's Well & Shrine in Holywell, North Wales, to set up a one-day parish pilgrimage there in 2024 as we missed the bathing opening times for 2023.

Fr Naz's role is about to get bigger as he takes on responsibility for St Joseph's in Upton and Our Lady & St Alphonsus in Blackmore Park. We talked about how this will work, the help we can give to Fr Naz and also understand how Fr Naz wants to embrace this new responsibility.

I hope this run down of what went on in the meeting is helpful and that it gives you an insight into how our parish functions. If you would like to raise an issue for the PAC to discuss, or have questions, please get in touch with Fr Naz or Edd Hogan (contact details are on the weekly bulletin). Your PAC members are shown on the noticeboard just inside the main church door.

Please remember to hold our parish and the PAC in your prayers regularly. Fr Naz is our shepherd and we, the PAC, are here to help him in that role however that help is needed. Our common bond is that we have faith in Jesus Christ and that we each are drawn to God and that we use our talents to support the work of the church here in Malvern and more widely.

Edd Hogan
Chair of the PAC