

## South Deanery – Pastoral Area 4 Meeting – 17 August 2023

In attendance –

Church	Representatives
St. Bernard & St. Robert	
St. Conval & St. James the Great	Fr. Martin, Alex, Rosemary & Veronica
Holy Name & St. Mary Immaculate	Fr. John C, Anne & Martin
Mill Hill Missions	Fr. Bernard & Fr. John D
Syro Malabar Community	

### Summary of Discussions

Fr. Martin opening the meeting with a prayer, welcoming everyone & undertook introductions.

Agenda focused on “**Thinking as Pastoral Area**”, the following points were discussed –

#### ***Where are the opportunities for evangelisation?***

- **Schools** – improve our links with the local schools, pastoral area should include reps from schools rather than them meeting separately cross diocese – this would encourage inclusion.
- **Encourage Inclusion** – as part of the work with school children/young people from other faiths/non faiths should be included – shouldn't be exclusive to those baptised Catholics.
- **Young adults** - those recently attended the World Youth Day in Lisbon – develop the next steps for them, ensure that this opportunity doesn't get lost.
- **Existing parishioners** – our parishioners have a need to be evangelised too.

#### ***Are there some initiatives on evangelisation that could be taken forward very soon?***

- **Scripture Prayer groups** – these are already in existence in Holy Name/St. Mary Immaculate – could these be promoted wider across the pastoral area?
- **World Youth Day** – next steps to be introduced rather than lose momentum.
- **RCIA** – could more be developed? Could these be delivered cross pastoral area?
- **Alpha programme/Sycamore project** – suggestion from Mill Hill about encouraging more participants at their Wednesday evening prayer group.

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### *What would a revised Mass schedule look like in your pastoral area?*

#### Discussion included –

- **Over provision** on weekday morning Masses – in the main timings of these overlap.
- **No provision** available in the evenings within the pastoral area for parishioners of working age – weekdays as well as Sundays too.
- The group were clear that we should avoid over provision where possible.

**Pastoral Areas** - this led to a discussion about the actual churches within pastoral area 4, the group felt that the fit wasn't quite right.

Suggestion was to redefine the pastoral area to become –

- Holy Name, St. Gabriel, St. Helen, St. Mary Immaculate & St. Vincent.

Further changes, so pastoral area would be –

- St. Bernard, St. Robert, St. Conval, St. James the Great, Our Lady of Lourdes & Our Lady & St. George.

Fr. Martin to review this with the reps from the other pastoral areas.

### *Where might your pastoral area increase collaboration/what might we do better if we collaborated closely/what is your vision for Collaboration & Evangelisation?*

#### Discussion included –

- Suggestion to have joint RCIA groups.
- Could SSVP councils be amalgamated across the pastoral area?
- Encourage sharing of Lenten & Advent events & services.

#### **Collaboration - even better if –**

- Sharing of good practices from the parishes.
- Shared events during Lent & Advent seasons.
- RCIA teams – encourage working as a pastoral team.
- Consideration to be given to employing a Evangelisation coordinator – this would be a salaried posting.

The meeting concluded with a prayer.