St Gregory’s PPC

Chairman’s Report

November 2019

**PASTORAL COUNCIL**

The parish council is made up of seven committed members representing St Gregory’s and St Vincent’s Churches who serve for a period of four years. Its Pastoral Leader and President is Fr John Gibbons. Chairperson Tony Whalen and Secretary Anne Archer. The Constitution for the Parish Pastoral Council can be seen on the notice board, the members of the Council are elected by parishioners.

The council meet every two months with open meetings in May & September. The September meeting will be the PPC AGM.

The PPC representatives at present are;

Fr John Gibbons – President

Tony Whalen – Chairperson

Anne Archer – Secretary

Kathleen Softley

Elizabeth Sears

Sandra Elliott

Madeleine Webster

Joanne Hearn

Robert Jackson

Purpose

1. The specific task of the PPC is to initiate, co-ordinate and promote the work and growth of the church in the proclamation of the Gospel, Christian Formation and Social and Community Affairs.
2. To enable all parishioners to participate more fully in the life of the church.
3. The PPC shall discharge these duties:
4. Regularly reviewing Christian Formation and Social and Community Affairs.
5. Parish Councillors to recognise the importance of delegation of duties as identified at each PPC meeting.
6. Parish Councillors need to make themselves available to parishioners and parish groups, as and when needed, to provide advice and support.

The council has been meeting regularly again this year, usually every other month on the second Thursday of the month. Notice of these meeting is published in the bulletin, where parishioners may submit items to be considered. This enables the council to make any decisions or deal with issues that arise quickly and effectively. The meetings are well attended. Parishioners can attend meetings but should notify the chair of their intention to do so in advance.

The overall welfare of our serving priests and ourselves, the people of the parish, together with smooth relationships, is our priority, therefore the criteria for the meetings is wide and far – reaching. Liaison with parishioners is essential and we welcome comments, queries and requests, which are discussed in a democratic way, with a view to creating harmony and co-operation amongst the varied elements of parish life.

There are several Parish groups that contribute to the life of the church whose reports are requested separately at the AGM and/or reported on. I would like to thank all these groups for the commitment and work they do for the Parish. Parish Groups are those operating in the name of, or on behalf of St Gregory’s parish and they are accountable to the pastoral leader. Any new parish group must have permission to use the parish name.

The council has faced greater challenges this year as more ownership is taken under the wing of the council for GDPR, DBS, Health & Safety and Partnership matters. This has meant additional work for councillors which we have managed well but for the future we may need to change the structure of the council.

I would also like to thank all those who are involved in any way in the parish for their commitment and hard work in keeping our church a welcoming open and friendly community.

Tony Whalen

PPC Chair 2019.