

Annual Parish Report May 2019

St. Francis Presbytery

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Justice and Peace Group 2019 AGM Report

The St Francis Justice and Peace Group supports a wide range of Justice and Peace issues. The group meets about four times a year. The key focus of the group is towards co-ordinating awareness raising and fund raising activities both for overseas organisations such as CAFOD as well as local organisations such as St Wilfrid's Centre and the S2 Foodbank.

St Francis continues to support the S2 Foodbank through regular donations of food and financial support. Regular updates are shared with the parish and focussed appeals are advertised as necessary. This has included special food and toy collections at Christmas as well as appeals for nappies, toilet rolls and toothpaste, responding to the needs of the S2 Foodbank.

The Justice and Peace Group is supporting the CAFOD "Our Common Home" campaign. A range of diocesan events supporting this campaign are being advertised in the Franciscan and parishioners are encouraged to attend. In addition, a Creation Celebration service and shared meal is being planned for the coming year at St Francis.

Parishioners will take part in this year's CAFOD May Day Trek on 6 May.
The Dance Club and Parish Panto continue to raise substantial funds for CAFOD.

A fundraising campaign was held this year over Advent with parishioners buying stickers to contribute to the purchase of a CAFOD cow for a community overseas. Enough funds were raised to buy a cow, four goats and some chickens. This year we will aim to buy two cows. During Lent, a series of inserts were handed out with the Franciscan each week to encourage reflection and prayer on justice and peace issues.

Other future plans are to support the Panto again this year and themed events in Advent and Lent. Collections of tea, coffee and sugar continue for St Wilfrid's. Parishioners again gave Easter eggs and Christmas presents to young people in Roundabout.

The Justice and Peace Group always welcome new members and our next meeting is 3 July 2019 (Wednesday) at 8pm in the Presbytery.

Eva Kaltenthaler

Mission Evangelisation and Faith Formation

Report for Parish Council AGM May 2019

There have been, and continue to be, some positive developments particularly in Faith Formation and Youth Ministry since we reported to the AGM in 2018. Naturally there are significant overlaps with other parish council groups in particular Liturgy and Spirituality.

First Holy Communion Catechesis

While Rose Krzyz is still leading this work Debora Ruvinski and Alex Krzyz have taken on much of the teaching load. In addition the parent's programme now has volunteers from the parish (Lindsay Reynolds and Tammy Hervey) leading some of the sessions alongside Rose, Stephen Parker and Greg Ryan. This is a positive move as it helps to integrate these families in parish life.

Baptismal preparation

The Baptismal preparation continues with the team led by Geraldine Houlton.

Youth Ministry

There was quite a list of possibilities listed last year for improvements in this area and there has been progress.

- Links continue to be made with schools. For a second year St Marie's were involved in a Mass at St Francis. Mrs Twomey at St Marie's invited catechists from the feeder parishes to a meeting to discuss First Holy Communion preparation. Jonathan Yewdall enables this connection.
- The Pastoral Ministry Course that Lindsay Reynolds is doing has led to relationships with other parishes and a desire to share resources eg for catechesis.
- The biggest innovation however has been the birth of a small youth group led by Richard Bushell and Richard Webster. This group meets once a month for a shared meal and discussion. Lindsay Reynolds and Clare Byrne were involved initially and remain interested for encouragement and advice.
- There are plans have more oversight on youth ministry, that is looking at all areas where young people are involved. See Richard Webster report.

CAFFE Life in the Spirit course

- Is mentioned in the Liturgy and Spirituality report. It was a well attended and appreciated course and shows there is appetite in the parish for faith development.

Alpha

- Through her Pastoral Ministry Course Lindsay was made aware that St William's were about to run an Alpha Course. The possibility of St Francis being involved has been explored.

Lent Prayer in Ignation tradition at St William's

- This Lent programme was attended by many of St Francis Parish and is a further encouragement that the parish has a strong spiritual life.

Lindsay Reynolds, Clare Byrne, Richard Webster

Maintenance 2019 AGM Report

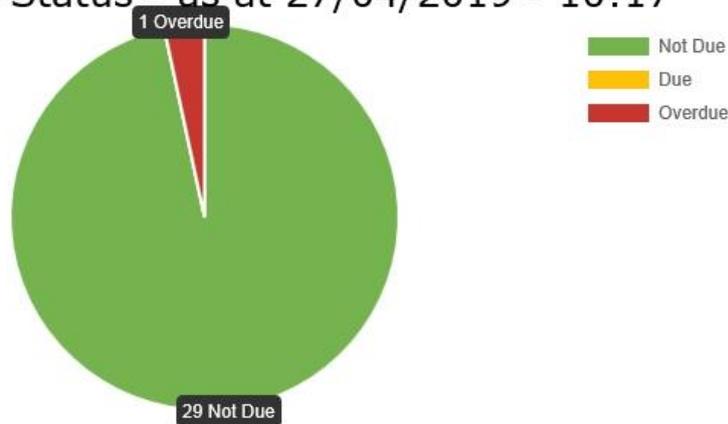
Maintenance actions for period 2018/2019 have included:

- Installation of seven new Velux windows to replace the old leaking units which were thirty years old.
- Roof inspections to locate the troublesome leak in the Narthex and repairs to the roof tiles to seal the leaks.
- Church and Presbytery gutters and downfall pipes have been cleaned using the 'skyvac system', a long reach vacuum which gets all the leaves and moss out to prevent blockages and backups.
- Interior high reach dusting completed in the Church.
- The hall floor has been recently resealed.
- Additional safety toolbox online training has been completed. As indicated by the pie chart (see below) we are currently running with one task overdue, 'emergency lighting annual service certificate' which will be actioned shortly.

Additional thanks go to our church flower arrangers and cleaners for all their hard work.

'Safety toolbox' online health and safety website current status

Task Status - as at 27/04/2019 - 10:17



David Hughes

Youth Ministry – report for parish AGM 2019

Youth Club

This area was one of the main points of discussion at last year's AGM. With this in mind, Richard Webster put himself forward for a Youth Ministry role on the Parish Council, with the aim of exploring ways to expand opportunities for the young people of the parish to develop their faith and to further serve the community. He has worked closely with fellow Parish Council members Lindsay Reynolds and Clare Byrne, who had a similar passion for this area and felt that it was a crucial part of their aims for Mission, Evangelisation and Faith Formation. Richard Bushell also came forward saying that he had long had the ambition of starting a Youth Club for 14-18-year-olds in the parish.

Richard Webster, Richard Bushell, Clare and Lindsay formed a sort of "steering group", meeting to discuss how they might take the idea of a Youth Club forward and sharing experiences of previous youth work. The intention to start a Youth Club was announced at Mass and in the Franciscan, and a questionnaire circulated to gather the thoughts of young people on what they might like to gain from it. The key outcome from this was the desire for the Youth Club to be a balance of social, spiritual and educational activities.

The first Youth Club was held in December and has had monthly meetings since, consisting of approximately 2 hours centred on a cooked meal which is prepared and eaten as a group. This sets the tone for the evening and creates a safe and relaxed space for discussion and prayer to follow. Richard W and Richard B prepare a few topics for discussion, but these are not set in stone - the conversation is free flowing and naturally moves in to other topics. Subjects that have been talked about include:

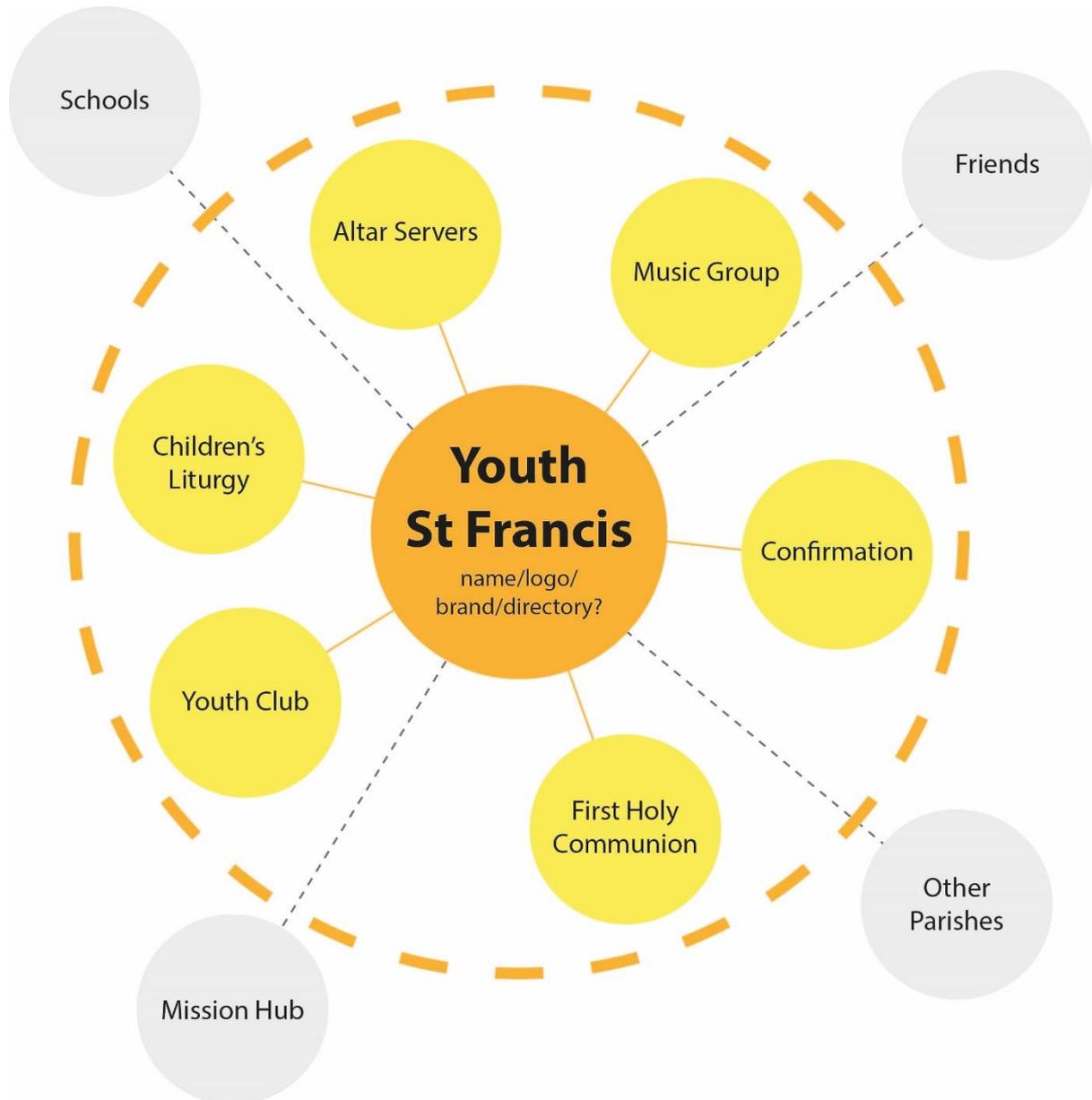
- Role of the Holy Spirit in the development of the Youth Club
- Structure and meaning of Advent
- Significance of the Epiphany
- Meaning behind the 3 gifts of the wise men
- Nature of good and evil
- What is like to be a young Catholic now?
- Gift of Free Will
- Controversies in the Catholic Church

Although numbers have been small so far, the young people attending have kept coming back and there is great potential to grow the Youth Club in the coming years. One of the outcomes is that it provides an easy platform to further involve young people in other areas of the parish, for instance when they have served tea and coffee after mass and when they enhanced our liturgy by their reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday.

Future Development

The "steering group" recently met again to discuss an idea to build on the excellent Youth Ministry already happening in the parish. Richard Webster presented the idea for a Youth St Francis "umbrella", a way of bringing together the different strands of youth involvement under a single

identity. It could have a name, logo and brand and could serve as way for young people to feel like a distinctive cohort within the Parish even if they don't want to be part of a formal club or group. It could also be a way for the people involved in organising and delivering these strands to network, collaborate, pool knowledge and resources and organise events.



Richard Webster, Lindsay Reynolds, Clare Byrne and Richard Bushell will be developing this idea over the next few weeks, allowing for parishioners to contribute their thoughts, with the intention of possibly "launching" on Pentecost Sunday as part of another Praise and Pizza event.

Pastoral Care and Community 2019 AGM Report

Elderly parishioners have been given lifts and have been brought to Mass on Sunday

Teas and coffees continue to be organised each Sunday after 11am Mass

Housebound parishioners have been visited and have received Holy Communion

Afternoon teas continue on the 3rd Tuesday of each month

Support has been given to Parish Social events including fund raising events and Games nights

Extra help was supplied after First Holy Communion Mass with teas, coffees and biscuits

New families have been welcomed and provided with information about the Parish

Young parishioners are being encouraged to take part at Mass by bringing up the Offertory Gifts.

On Good Friday over 60 people from neighbouring churches taking part in an ecumenical pilgrimage for Hallam Churches together came to St Francis to take part in Stations of the Cross and have refreshments with us.

Anne Shepherd

Liaison with St William Group AGM Report 2019

There has been little to report. Once the decision about Masses was made straightforward by the discovery that St William's best attended Mass is at 9.30, the need for formal discussions faded away.

Mass attendance at the St Francis 11 o'clock is up from about 150 to 220, i.e. an increase of 70. However since the 9 o'clock attendance was about 90, we have lost 20 parishioners, and we can conclude that the number coming over from St Williams is negligible.

There was a broad agreement that we would advertise events in each other's newsletters and as far as possible made them open to both congregations. That has happened.

The CAFE programme on 'Life in the Spirit' run by a group from the Parish Council in the Autumn was attended by some St Williams parishioners and similarly the Ignatian meditation for Lent run by Alessio Salvatori at St Williams was attended by a number of St Francis parishioners.

A proposal from St Williams for a joint musical event with St Francis is being considered.

In general, though, the two parishes continue to run independent of each other, as was envisaged until such time as there is only one priest to serve both parishes.

The need for a more regular and formal process of liaison and co-operation will probably arrive at some point in the future but is not, in our estimation, here yet.

Mike Campbell

Phil Rostant

Liturgy and Spirituality 2019 AGM Report

The life of the parish continues to centre around the Mass and the sacraments. Father Kevin remains at that centre and we thank God for his presence. Deacon Stephen is able to help Fr. Kevin at Mass as well baptisms and funerals.

A major change has occurred since last year in that the Sunday Masses have gone from two to one. We have also twinned with St. Williams of York parish so that we can form bonds with that parish prior to the day when the parishes may only be served by one priest.

The loss of one Sunday Mass as well as perhaps as many as 50 Mass goers could be perceived as being entirely negative but it does give the parish an opportunity to grow together and to reach out to another community. The CAFE programme 'Life in the Spirit' was shared with St. Williams parishioners and as many as half a dozen attended on some of the evenings. Total attendance on the evening was about 30 people each evening. St Williams have invited us to their Alpha course which they are running this year. The Lenten retreat by Fr. Kevin Hayden had to postponed again as he had to go to Rome for three months.

The group would be very happy to receive input from any parishioner. Please contact Clare Byrne.

Stephen Spooner