



ZOOM MEETING HELD ON 2nd SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7:30PM

Presentations

PREFACE - Sue Douet

INTRODUCTIO – Uncovering the framework – Sue Douet

CHAPTER 1 - The Essence of Hope - Alice

Contributions

Group 1

In the past Church was focused on maintenance, and priests were moved every 8 years or so.

- Now we need to focus on mission, but how can this happen when bishops and priests are moved every so many years.
- Today, what is the difference between maintenance and mission? A new priest is always guided by the community he inherits and he is challenged to move forward with the Community.
- We are all missionaries and we need give to others the gift that we have receive and involve more parishioners to work within the community.
- Jesus said: “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” We should involve more people in the work with Fr Julio.

What is the talk about *Divine Renovation* within the Deanery regarding the transferring of priests?



- *Divine Renovation* is a lengthy project - a priest should have enough time to see a positive result before moving on.
- Fr Julio was complimented on his homily last Sunday where he said “Everyone can be a disciple and go out to spread The Good News.”
- The statistics about HOPE show that 10% of effort bears fruit. So if we all invite just twenty people to Church two will answer positively ...
- CHRIST overcame so many difficulties including death by his Resurrection. We can too.
- Fr Martin gave a homily of GOD being a ‘Somehow GOD’ meaning we don’t always understand how, but he always somehow helps us when we ask Him.
- It is our basic duty to evangelise and we need to have an atmosphere of welcome in our Church: ONE PERSON IS WORTH EVERYTHING.

Group 2

It was an interesting point about the Vision coming from the Bishop, otherwise it would not work.

- The thought came that if the Bishop could see it spreading to the parishes he could act accordingly and allow the priest to remain; instead of removing him after the specified number of years.
- A Vision can spring up from an individual parish.

Saying the Pope's message is revolutionary, only reveals how far away we can be from the initial message of Jesus, “To go out to the whole world and make disciples.”



- The word hope should not be looked upon as the world sees hope, “that maybe something good may happen”. No, the Christian hope has more certainty about it: “That we will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living”.
- It is sure and certain, because “The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

In the Acts of the Apostles, Paul and Barnabas visited the Churches to encourage and teach.

- This could also be part of the renewal process in our parishes; so we don't feel alone in what we are doing. Of course, all is the work of the Spirit, apart from whom we can do nothing.
- Saint Francis was spoken of as an example of a man raised up by God to proclaim the Gospel; and we still see the fruits of that today.

Finally, we trust in the Lord to open doors of evangelism; as he wills all to be saved and come to know his love and mercy.

Group 3

We debated how long priests should be appointed. The general observation was that priests should stay in post about 12 years. We noted that with ageing priests this time may be shortened.

- The group thought that priests were overloaded as people tended to tell them all their stresses. Priests need to be able to cope with people and their stressful circumstances.
- Some mentioned that the Pope is well known for wanting a missionary approach but is not obviously telling us how to do this.
- We need to establish a *vision statement*. The following can be the vision statement at a previous session.



Vision Statement

The Sacred Heart Church, Sunningdale is a Catholic Community of people who chose to gather and

- Welcome everybody
 - Participate fully in parish life and worship
 - Discover, live, and share our Scripture and Tradition
 - Deepen our spirituality
 - Serve those in need
 - Support the Verona Fathers financially.
- People who attend the Sacred Heart Church are quite good at all of the above. We have had *welcomers* for 8 years. The Lectio Divina classes have been running for 8 years. More and more people attend the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Stations of the Cross. There are leading lights who instruct the First Communicants and Confirmation classes. This has only happened in the last 4-5 years. There are many people involved in Ministries like reading and Eucharistic Ministry.

Group 4

- We were excited to be starting the second book from Father Mallon, "*Beyond the Parish*".
- The 2nd book will hopefully tell us 'HOW'. Help us to go out and engage people currently in our Church and beyond our Church.
- We felt it was good that the topic of how long a priest stayed in a parish was being discussed and both felt that longer is better to allow meaningful change to happen but also agreed that the parishioners should be a strong enough community of well led groups to be able to handle a change of priest.



- We were concerned re the statistics quoted in the book but felt that we need to look at the broader picture and also consider that we at *Sacred Heart* are quite a transient community.
- We discussed the change that needs to happen in our Churches and that not everyone likes change but that cannot be a reason to not try - we should push on yet be considerate of those who find it difficult and try to take them with us.
- We found the pyramid interesting and appreciate that it will take a considerable amount of time to work through it starting with '*Our Vision*'.
- We hope and are sure that Fr Julio will be our guiding light in the whole process, inspired by The Holy Spirit.
- We discussed the fact that Fr Mallon had a huge congregation with paid staff and we are much smaller with volunteers. We can make *Divine Renovation* our foundation for change and take from it what suits us and adapt it to our needs to build on what we already have.

ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK

- Fr Julio has a book called *The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community. In the Service of the Evangelizing Mission of the Church*. This book is an Instruction from the Congregation for the Clergy, from the Vatican. This book confirms that the need to make a change of Parish structures is not only necessary, but it is also supported by the Magisterium of the Church.
- The need for salvation is to be preached and talked about more widely. Everyone is interested in his or her salvation so we should focus on it in our evangelisation outreach.



- We need to talk about God's Grace which is the only way we will get to heaven. This fact has been denied in the past (the Pelagian heresy) and must be made clear to everyone.
- What is the Verona Fathers' policy is on moving priests around? It is General Council of the Comboni Missionaries in Rome who makes the decision to an international transfer. Most priests serve around 9 years in their first assignment, then future assignments depend on the main responsibility the priest is given, i.e. formation, pastoral work, finance, administration ...
- Salvation is a good vision. You can't share salvation if you haven't experienced what being saved means.
- We talk about declining numbers of people in Church – Jesus predicted this. We are in an anointed time where we can share our faith and bring people to know God.



NEXT MEETING

16th September 7:30 p.m.
“Beyond the Parish”

Chapter 2 : **Vision - Anatomy of Decline pp. 31-40**
Nuala

Chapter 3: **Vision - A Case for Hope: Uncovering**
the Framework - pp. 13-20:
Kitty

Chair Person: **Peter**

Secretary: **Alice**