

Reflection : Gifts of the Spirit - Pentecost.

Present: Marie Kirkup (school), Peter Dawson (Chair), Ken Eades, Dana Andrews, Frs (3), Hugh Steel, Teresa Homan,

Apologies: Tina Afoa, Pat Salandanan,

Agenda:

- 1) What have we learnt about Church over the last 2 months? Shared comments:
 - The church is the people, not the building
 - The church is my life
 - The church was present in the people, the meeting off the people
 - The coming together as community was missed
 - The church is present in our hearts, our prayers
 - The community of believers, coming together, celebrating the mass
 - We learnt different ways to come together, the internet, zoom meetings
 - Opportunities for groups to zoom in on people overseas
 - Interesting looking at what others are doing, open zoom meeting, anyone can drop in.
 - the church offered Hope in the face of stress and anxiety
 - a number of our parishioners felt very alone as they couldn't connect with technology. A ring around was carried out by a small group of the parish, attempting to make contact.
 - Fr Kevin mentioned the possibility to do more in terms of teaching, which he did some of over the lockdown.
 - Did we sense a greater presence of God over the lockdown...open question. We felt it was true...maybe it caused us to give God time...Easter in lockdown, ...focus on eggs still but greater discussion on social media and opportunities there, ...great range of experiences, some having a retreat type lockdown, others under huge stress as on-call workers – hospital etc,...great experience of the human race...one world now..we all followed the govt leadership, and made good choices...kindness the narrative...thinking deeply and positively about the other person...
 - There is an abundance that was used over the lockdown, we do have the resources to feed and house those in our communities
 - The bubble forced us to use other people to help out, couldn't break into others bubbles, so benefits in that respect. E.g health professionals who did have a greater range of movement
- 2) How can we apply what we've learnt?
 - Parish vision picks up much of this, we have opportunities with our 4 masses registered already, have a community formed that has a common desire.
 - Small local communities as local support, we have tried to work on this before, and not just our parish, seen as awesome support in the ChCh earthquakes, so moving forward has value, hopefully not another pandemic but possibly a need will arise again!
 - Connections used over lockdown, food parcels shared, it does happen already
- 3) What processes do we use to discern what the parish needs?
 - Process vs content. Techniques used with the change in some parishes, retaining the harmonious focus. Discerning the value of differentness. How do we engage with them. Do we know what our wide cultural groups are thinking. Do we go to them, have we ever been to our communities cultural gatherings? We have had cultural groups share food, and the mass in their native language – that has been great, maybe we go a step further. The process we have does have objectives laid out by the 2017 Synod, so we have a guide to where we go, and a parish plan as well.

- 4) How to implement the Parish Plan detailed in the recent proposal to Cardinal John
 - Peter wants to review our Parish Pastoral plan, has feedback that the review needed more submissions. Hugh disagreed, as did Teresa. The issue was discussed and decision made to explore how we work towards a common ground. We are still waiting on a response from the Cardinal on our submission.
- 5) Finance – a person was lined up to run a programme in the parish, we cannot continue to rely on our elderly community. So we agreed, we do need to implement this programme asap, realising the Covid scenario.
- 6) Fr Maleko – grateful for the support over the lockdown, and the last few weeks, keeping us safe, following the guidelines. We want to move forward, caring about our parish, each of us caring in a different way. We can disagree, but we all care! Keep slowing down and listen to each other.

Meeting ended 9:30pm

Minutes recorded by Hugh Steel.