

**Summary of a meeting of the Ginger Group
at
Church of the Holy Spirit, Great Bardfield
7th July, 2018**

Father Richard began the meeting with a reflection on St Peter fleeing from Rome and persecution and the well-known 'Quo vadis?' of Christ, then his return to Rome and martyrdom. Father then opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Renewal Questionnaires were given out for members to peruse and since there were no comments, it was agreed that these would be distributed at both churches the following day.

Plans to mark the Eucharistic Congress in September were put forward. Friday 7th, Holy Hour at Bardfield. Saturday 8th, 10am Mass and Benediction at Thaxted. Confessions at both Thaxted and Bardfield on those days. Sunday, 9th, Mass and a family picnic in the gardens at Bardfield. Fr. Richard feels he must take his Doctors advice to not rush back to doing too much, too soon, therefore, instead of Benediction after Mass today, Robina has suggested a meditated Rosary in the church at 3pm for those who wish to join her.

There will be special bidding prayers for the Eucharistic Congress said at all Masses from 5th August. Robina will write them.

Fr Richard to introduce the parish prayer intentions book. This is to be placed on the table as you enter the church, with a statue of Our Lady and a lighted candle. Fr Richard agreed to write the first prayer in the book. Parishioners can write their prayers in the book which will be taken to the lectern by an altar server at the beginning of Mass to be held up by the reader at the end of the Bidding Prayers and commended to God through the intercession of Our Lady. The Hail Mary will then follow. Fr Richard to compose the wording to be used.

Also, should a reader wish to add a prayer centered on current events after the prescribed prayers, they may do so.

Fr Richard is to reintroduce the ringing of the outside bell at the Consecration. The bell will be rung by an altar server since, as Linda pointed out, this marks the most sacred part of the Mass, transubstantiation. Fr Richard is to contact a steeplejack known to him who will be able to carry out any repairs needed to the bell system.

The Alpha Group is to start January 12th 2019. Robina to lead. (DV)

CaFE – Catholic Faith Exploration. These courses will be looked at by Linda who will report back to the Core Team. There are many courses available, ie the Sacraments, teachings of the church, the Gospels, First Communion (for parents), the Saints etc. Adele Angel of the Vicariate for Evangelisation and Fr Richard are very keen to get this working in Parishes.

Spiritual Communion, when one is unable to receive Holy Communion, as Damian reminded us, is a powerful means of uniting us to Christ and could be promulgated.

The meeting, which had to be short due to Robina attending an Alpha Group meeting at Braintree, was wound up by Alfred, who thanked Damian for his sterling work to date on the Diocesan Restructuring of our church, which, while taking a small break until the final Vision Document in November, is still important and ongoing. Robina also thanked Fiona for being the good woman behind Damian.

It was agreed that the Ginger Group would meet bi-monthly as we really want to get the parish renewal underway and the Renewal Core Team would welcome Ginger Group input and ideas in this essential, much needed work. The meeting dates are:

Saturday, 15th September 2018

Saturday, 17th November

Saturday, 5th January, 2019

Saturday, 2nd March

Saturday, 18th May

Saturday, 13th July

All the meetings will begin at 10am, either at Bardfield or Thaxted and notification will be sent to Ginger Group members, put in the Newsletter and announced after Mass during the preceding weeks. Please put these dates in your diary. These dates do not clash with Parish Council Meetings

The meeting ended with members going into the church and Fr Richard leading us in saying the Angelus together.

Between now and the next Ginger Group meeting, the Renewal Core Team will continue to work towards implementing agreed changes to facilitate renewal.