

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
OUR LADY'S CHURCH ACOMB, and ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, GREEN HAMMERTON

Chair's Annual Report for Parish AGM 24.3.19

The Parish Pastoral Council has now been established for 4 years and meets on a bi-monthly basis with a summer break, typically holding 5 meetings a year. This report gives a flavour:

Through 2019 we have heard reports and discussed wide ranging matters including:

- Inclusion and Welcome
- Youth Group activity
- Children and Toddlers
- Support for sick, elderly, lone parishioners
- Foodbank
- Care for our Common Home
- Accessibility
- First Holy Communion and Confirmation
- Communication with OLQM Primary School
- Music in the Liturgy
- Change in the Carmelite Community and Fr Tony's 'move' to Middlesbrough Diocese

Harvest Festival in September showed again how generous parishioners can be and showed the collaboration across the parish groups and Masses in both worship, activity and charitable donation. Every week sees foodbank donations from parishioners.

Songs of Praise visited our church in July! A wonderful event representing some aspects of our musical ministry by professionals plus two of our own amongst a wide-ranging congregation from all areas of York and beyond. Broadcasts made us look very good and funds supported our Parish Social in January.

We moved from Fr Tony's proposals for Welcome to being an Inclusive Church and we are now the first RC Church in England to hold this status. Our Musicians continue to support the LGBTI+ welcome Mass every second Sunday of the month and in December Bishop Terry celebrated that Mass at the Convent.

Bishop Terry's visitation in February saw him share in each Mass, meet members of the parish, including the PPC and make several much-valued visits to the sick.

York College now use our Church Hall facility for some of their work with students local to the Church, from which we have gained the benefit of a refurbished kitchen, which is marvellous. The students also provide a weekly lunch club.

The Parish seems to be thriving in a warm spirit of welcome, openness and support for one another. The PPC does have potential vacancies and insofar as our work has become a hub or conduit for Parish activity, we aim to keep building a full awareness of all there is to be part of in Our Lady's and St Joseph's.

John Kesterton
Chair 2019