

Notes of St Joseph & the English Martyrs Parish Pastoral Council
Thursday, 19th January 2023 at 7.30pm at WCC

Present: Fr Peter, Marie Rhodes (via Zoom), Bertie Napier, Martin Dillon, Alison Jones

Apologies : Fr Antonio, Vincent Micallef

Warm Spaces Initiative

Fr Peter had met with Rev Gill Hulme (Methodist Church) to offer support and volunteers for Warm Spaces Project. Their newly refurbished, town centre hall is open several days a week but they would like to offer more sessions. Volunteers from St Joseph's would be sought and some funding offered equivalent to heating costs had support been provided in WCC.

Volunteers

General difficulty in finding and retaining the volunteers and increase in age of volunteers due to raised pension age and need for both partners to work. Caritas Volunteer Service running MS Teams seminar on Recruiting Parish Volunteers in 2023 on 26th January. AJ had signed up.

St Joseph's has largest congregation in BS but not very visible in outreach and while there are parishioners involved in various projects ie FoodBank/Night Shelter etc compared to some congregations, however, our 'deeds' are relatively small. Involvement in projects through Churches Together has potential to raise profile.

Communion under both kinds Answering a query from Martin Dillon Fr Peter advised that it had been discussed by local deans during a session with the Cardinal, but further guidance is awaited.

Changing congregations: noted that the age range and diversity of the congregation at 11am had altered considerably over the last 5 years. This diversity might need to be reflected in music content in due course.