

Pro-Life meeting, April 11 2019

Present: Arnold Marsden, Mary O'Reilly, Theresa Mercer, Maureen Mercer, Lewis Guest, Anthony Brown

Apologies: Jean Marsden, + 2 (?)

The next Pro-Life walk is on 6 May starting at 1.00 pm on St Michael and St John's Primary School car park. This year we will have David Alton as usual but not Bishop John or Archbishop Kelly. We are unable to have the Assembly Hall this year so we will be in the top room which will create some logistical inconvenience moving crockery, provisions and teapots from the kitchen. Helpers appreciated.

There was discussion about petitions and whether we should encourage sharing. **Action: Theresa, Arnold and Anthony to exchange petitions and pass to Lewis as an initial step in establishing what can reasonably be put into wider circulation.**

There was discussion about the Hope in the Future notice board at the back of St Michael and St John's and whether it should embrace material on parish groups given that the recent Hope in the Future audit of activity and interest in Parish Groups emphasises that Hope in the Future embraces all Parish work and activity. **Action: To be raised at the next Missionary Steering Team meeting.**

There was discussion on engaging younger people in Pro-Life issues and one suggestion was to talk with families on the Pro-Life walk to explore interest in them being more active. The meeting also felt that Fr John should promote at Mass. **Action: Put it to Fr John to make an appeal at Mass for younger people's engagement.**

We need to ensure we get the best response at Day for Prayer on June 16. Traditionally there has been Exposition from 9.00 am till Evening Mass with a Mass also at 12.00 pm. Last year Exposition was from 11.00 am till 3.00 pm followed by Benediction. However despite a board at the back with half hour slots for people to sign up to, the meeting felt that coverage could not be guaranteed. **Action: Ask Fr John for how he plans to run the day.**

Positive things about the recent Lenten Stations at Sabden were the individual participation and the bidding prayers. The meeting felt that next year we should plan to have part of a hymn between stations and examine an alternative script to include all aspects of pro-life. It was felt that raising the issue of Pro-Life outside the context of the stations and promoting the Pro-Life Group was inappropriate. Next year the stations will be in Clitheroe and not Sabden. **Action: Plan in good time next year and ensure a meeting agenda item close to the date. .**

The next meeting is on 30 May at 7.30 pm in the Presbytery.