

Weekly Message from Fr William for the Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Dear People of St Mary's,

The 2022 Confirmation preparation course is well underway. We have 15 young candidates now preparing for celebration of this wonderful sacrament. The first two sessions we did online from home, and the most recent two sessions in the hall and meeting room, following the same covid security measures that we maintain in church.

A verbatim report of the submissions made during our parish participation in the Synod is now on the website homepage. The number of people who agreed with a statement is indicated. This first worldwide synod was a synod on synodality itself, as you'll see from the questions.

We had our quarterly Finance Committee meeting on Monday. Thank you to all FC members for their time and experience and for helping to exercise good stewardship of our buildings and financial resources. Report to the parish coming soon.

Parish Pastoral Council elections will be next Sunday 13th February 2022. Thank you to those who have accepted nomination to serve in this capacity. This is not like political elections when candidates put themselves forward and stand against each other. These candidates have been put forward by someone else, and have agreed to serve in this capacity if the parish electorate so choose. In doing so they are also accepting the possibility that another candidate might be chosen, so there's also an element of putting themselves on the line. So I'm especially grateful to them for accepting the nomination. Their generosity serves the PPC, it serves the parish, it helps promote the democratic dimension of the PPC, and it's a great help to me.

In the past the voting system would only allow the vote to be given to those who made it to church on election day. Now for the first time the voting will be opened up to everybody on the parish database even if they can't make it to church. For those of you with email your opportunity to vote will come to you by email with directions to vote online with a few clicks of your mouse. For those on the database without email please call me to make special arrangements. My landline is currently unreliable, so call me on my mobile 07794 197464 during the course of this week.

Covid measures unchanged from last Sunday for those celebrating mass with the parish in church.

God bless you and your family



Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time, 6th February 2022