

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

Dear People of St Mary's, it's PPC election Sunday, your opportunity to vote representatives onto the Parish Pastoral Council. This is the tenth year since we overhauled the PPC and its constitution, and introduced this democratic dimension so that the parish could elect representatives onto the council. There was a feeling at the time that those on the council should be parishioners who had roles or responsibilities in the parish, what we now call ministries, hence the drawing up of the five ministry groups, and the opportunity to elect from each of these ministry groups a representative to the council. To maintain a balance, provision was also made in the constitution to elect someone, any parishioner, to the council who might not be in any ministry group. None of this has changed.

What changes now is the method of election. If your name and email address are on the parish database you will receive an email this Sunday inviting you to vote online. Check your filter / junk mail if necessary. Read the email, the date and time deadline for voting (Wednesday 16th Feb), and click on the green button labelled 'Click here to vote' to start voting. I think you'll find the process clear and simple. Those who do not have email and have applied for a postal vote will receive a postal vote on Sunday with written instructions and date for submission.

This change of method has been prompted by the Covid pandemic and the fact that at this time there hasn't yet been a full return to in-church celebration of mass. It also means that the vote will for the first time go out to everybody on the parish database, that is to over 400 parishioners, or at least those for whom we have an email address, or those without email address who applied for a postal vote. I hope this will mean a greater sense of inclusion and involvement.

There's only one candidate for Formation Ministries, who will therefore go forward automatically to the council. You'll see in the email you're being given the opportunity to elect a representative to Outreach Ministries and Support Ministries.

There's more about the PPC elections in my last weekly message if you want to check back on the website. But this message, and the email on its way to you this Sunday, gives you what you need for the voting.

Covid measures are unchanged from last Sunday for those celebrating mass with the parish in church. Click on the homepage link 'Celebration of mass by in-church participation' for the current measures. This is still being kept under review, and will be in particular at the end of the month when the government makes its next review.

God bless you and your family



Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, 13th February 2022