

Weekly Message from Fr William for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2023

Dear People of St Mary's,

Voting begins this Sunday for annual elections to the Parish Pastoral Council as detailed in last Sunday's weekly message. This is now done electronically. Provided your current email address is on the parish database you will receive an email with a link to the voting platform. On the voting platform you will see that voting opens today, Sunday, at 12 noon and closes this Wednesday at 12 noon. The platform shows you who the candidates are and will make clear how to cast your vote. As mentioned last Sunday, if you don't have a current email address on the parish database talk to me after Mass this Sunday or send me a message via someone who can email me and we will fix you up with an alternative method of casting your vote.

Two candidates have been nominated to represent our Liturgy ministries on the PPC and both have accepted nomination and agreed to be candidates. A big thank you to them for being willing to serve in this capacity and for helping to maintain the democratic dimension of our Parish Pastoral Council.

There was only one nomination from our Interaction ministries who will therefore be deemed elected automatically, and no nominations for a candidate outside of our five ministry groups. I'll give you the results of the election in next Sunday's weekly message, and maybe take the opportunity to outline for you the role of the PPC in our parish life.

We switched from paper voting to electronic voting last year. It makes possible a much wider engagement in the PPC elections that was previously the case. It means every member of the parish on the database, over 400, provided we have their email address, has the opportunity to vote, and not just those who normally come to church, or who happen to come church on election day – the fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time.

Finance Committee meets tomorrow Monday 30th January. PPC meets Monday 20th February with our current councillors + newly elected councillors.

In my last parish I introduced Question of the Week onto the bulletin. I thought it might be something you might also like. Anybody is welcome to write in a question about any aspect of the Catholic faith and I'll put one in the bulletin each week. Then in the bulletin the following week I'll try to provide a three line answer. Depending on the question, the answer might be from the official teaching of the church, or if there's no official teaching on it in the Catholic Church I might throw in back to you and invite you to send in possible answers. I've started the ball rolling in this Sunday's bulletin with a question that as far as I know doesn't have an official answer, even by St Thomas Aquinas. Suggested answers please, and/or another question for Question of the Week. By email if possible.



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 29th January 2023