Regional Meeting

1 March 2022

Present

Fr Philip Baptiste (*Mission Together, Westminster*), Fr Gary Brassington (*Clifton*), Dcn Anthony Callaghan (*Liverpool*), Fr Patrick Daly (*Brentwood*), Mary Dearden (*Mission Together, Shrewsbury*), Fr Tony Grace (*Shrewsbury*), Dcn Tom Kavanagh (*Southwark*), Canon Michael Loughlin (*Middlesbrough*), Helena McGouran (*Mission Together, Middlesbrough*), Fr Carlos Quito (*Westminster*), Dcn Michael Tosh (*Plymouth*), Canon Paul Watson (*Menevia*).

Fr Dermot Byrne MHM (*British Regional*), Fr Kevin Hughes MHM, Fr Jan Klaver MHM, Fr Emmanuel Mbeh MHM, Fr Vincent Oates MHM, Fr Brian Oswald MHM.

Cedric Burke (*Missio Finance Director*), Fr Tony Chantry MHM (*National Director*), Theresa Codd (*Regional Community Fundraiser, North*), Claire Colleran (*Mission Together*), Stephen Davies (*Red Box Director*), Millie Fernandez (*Appeals Coordinator, Southwark Province*), Margaret Tackney (*Appeals Coordinator, Westminster Province*), Dave Wheat (*Regional Community Fundraiser, South*).

Sharing about current situation around parishes and communities

* On the whole, people returning to weekend Masses, back to around 2/3 Mass attendance (fewer in some churches).
* Includes many younger families returning.
* Increase in parish giving via electronic and/or Standing Order/Direct Debit means.
* Second collections suffering as people are bringing little cash to church.
* Local Secretaries:
  + A lot of turnover, and not easy to find people to take on the role.
  + Those who remain need extra support, almost starting again. Possible need for extra training/support to remind them of their role and/or look at the role differently.
* Some visits to schools beginning again, although not easy.
* Not all Local Secretaries and parishioners are comfortable with the lifting of restrictions. Need to remember when planning events/gatherings/training, etc..
* Appeals beginning. 17 completed in 2022; 158 currently confirmed for the rest of the year. More will be booked.
  + Finding the balance between promoting the fact we can take cashless donations and asking for long-term support via Red Box/Direct Debits.
  + Many appeals are the ones previously arranged for 2020/2021.

Specific information:

* Westminster has a new Director of Education, who Fr Philip Baptiste hopes to be able to meet soon.
* Middlesbrough recruiting volunteers in geographical areas to lead on Mission Together and work with local schools.
* Brentwood – Director of the Deacon Formation programme is keen for Missio input for current and trainee deacons. Kevin Hughes is in contact with him.
* Salford: someone has been approached to take on the DD role.
* Discussion around keeping the **Red Box** in people’s homes. Ideas included:
  + Red Box fridge magnet, with QR code on it
  + QR stickers to stick on someone’s Red Box
  + Red Box credit card sized prayer card for going in wallet/purse
  + Car sticker – can also be a form of evangelisation
  + Missio app for mobile phones
  + Membership, like the RNLI, which could build on the existing Red Box Annual Membership scheme
* 21 June 2022, as part of the annual Missio National Council with all DDs, proposed to have a ‘Red Box Strategy Day’ to look together at how to take forward the Red Box in these changing times, with an increasingly cashless society, fewer people in the parish, and fewer people taking on the role of Local Secretary. A wider group (especially Mill Hill Missionaries, as well as some Local Secretaries and others) to be invited for the day. In advance some consultation will take place to bring ideas to the meeting.

Missio Financial Results 2021

* The first table is the overall Missio financial results for 2021. These include Red Box donations in the South (dioceses of Arundel & Brighton, Birmingham, Brentwood, Cardiff, Clifton, East Anglia, Menevia, Northampton, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Shrewsbury, Southwark, Westminster and Wrexham), but not the dioceses in the North (Hallam, Hexham & Newcastle, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Middlesbrough and Salford) which are accounted for by the Mill Hill Missionaries.
* The variance is against 2019 income, the last full year before the pandemic, to give a more accurate sense of the financial situation.



* The second table relates to all Red Box income – both that which has been given in Red Boxes and banked by Local Secretaries, as well as money given directly (eg Direct Debits, cheques sent into the office, gifts online and contactless donations).



* Money which was not banked in 2020 has undoubtedly helped increase the amount raised in 2021. We are not in a position to know how income will be affected in 2022.
* There has been an increase in direct giving, and a decrease in the money banked by Local Secretaries.
* The third table shows the breakdown of how much money was raised through the Red Box per diocese.



Beatification of Blessed Pauline Jaricot

* **Beatification**: Sunday, 22 May 2022 in Lyon, France
* **Mission Today Calendar 2022**: monthly timeline of Pauline’s life
* **Mission Today Spring 2022**: Pauline feature and accompanying leaflet (delivered)
* **Mission Today Impact Report**: Beatification prayer card (May)
* **Celebrating all volunteers**:
  + Thank you card from Fr Tony (timing TBC)
  + Masses across England and Wales with special focus on volunteers (May – October)
    - **Shrewsbury:** Wednesday, 11 May at 7pm, St Michael and All Angels, Birkenhead, with Bishop Mark Davies
    - **Portsmouth**:
      * Sunday, 12 June at 3pm, St Colman’s, Portsmouth
      * Thursday, 16 June at 3pm, St Joseph’s, Maidenhead
    - **East Anglia**: Saturday, 25 June at 11.30am, St John the Baptist Cathedral, Norwich, with Bishop Alan Hopes
    - **Salford**: Saturday, 25 June at 3pm, Salford Cathedral
    - **Hallam**: Saturday, 16 July at 12.30pm, St Marie’s Cathedral, Sheffield, with Bishop Ralph Heskett CSsR
    - **Leeds**: Saturday, 1 October – details tbc
    - Other dioceses arranging Masses: **Clifton**, **Menevia, Middlesbrough** and **Plymouth**
* **Thank you mailing**: Encouraging Local Secretaries to raise awareness in their parish,
  + including information in Thank You script and social media assets (March/April)
* **Web-based resources** (March), including downloadable leaflet, images, talk, presentation, press releases/articles which can be used by Diocesan press/media/online.
* **Children’s resource** based on a ‘five facts assembly’ about Pauline Jaricot will be available by the end of March.
* **Films** are being produced by PMS international and various countries. Missio is working to ensure they will also work for our audience (eg in ensuring translation is accurate). As soon as we have them, we will share them.

Plans 2022

A lot of the plans are around the Beatification of Pauline Jaricot (see above). Some other plans include:

* **Red Box**
  + **Appeals re-starting** (17 completed; 158 confirmed so far)
  + **Contactless giving** pilots, with a cluster of Local Secretaries sharing a device to use during the year, will take place. Some areas ready to take part. Any ideas of Local Secretaries or others who would be interested, please let Dave/Theresa know.
  + **Local Secretary Consultation fruits**, including
    - Developing parish-based mission teams, working together, differing volunteer roles
    - Developing resources for Local Secretaries, including online presence
    - Encouraging Red Box community in parish, even with fewer people having a Red Box
* **Education**
  + Lent materials are on the website https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/lent/
    - Includes the daily Lenten Calendar
    - Pupil-led liturgies
    - PDF workbooks about why we pray more and why we give more during Lent
  + We are working with a catechist who is skilled in inclusive catechesis for children who are differently abled. Resources and videos are available at https://missiontogether.org.uk/inclusive-resources/

AOB

* **National Council** for all Diocesan Directors is 20-22 June 2022 at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon in Hertfordshire https://www.cct.org.uk/high-leigh/high-leigh-conference-centre