**Minutes for Manresa Link Core Group for Website**

**Thursday 24 November, 7.30 – 9.15 on Zoom.**

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| **No** | **Item** |
| **1** | **Welcome and apologies:** Apologies received from 3. Present: 5 |
| **2** | **Opening prayer** was offered |
| **3** | **Farewells and thanks** were offered in their absence to two members who have given so much to the work of the Core Group. |
| **4** | **Minutes of 4th Aug** had been agreed by email and edited version on website |
| **5** | **Matters arising** not covered as a major item on agenda:  *Newly trained guides forming Triads*: only one Triad had been able to meet, this will happen when the time is right  *Maintaining contact* with members and zoom cafes: too much happening to hold more during Autumn. Short paragraph to go into newsletter to explain that these were delayed but when possible would restart  *Diversity*: One member of ML is very happy to be involved if we contact her when we are in a position to take this forward, invite her to a 15 min slot in Core meeting to hear her thinking. Minutes of previous diversity conversations to be circulated.  Nechells parish actively working on RiDL, exciting as large Eritrean group  *Autumn Gathering:* Enjoyed the space and the sense that it was a day of friendship. Having welcomers not from Core Group worked well. |
| **6** | **Core Group membership and recruitment:**  *Feedback from AGM* So far no names have come forward; we felt the principle of everyone discerning who might be on the Core Group was established and important  *Offices including chair* we were offered the idea of collaborative leadership. All warmed to the principle but were concerned about practicalities. We considered possibility of co-chairs  *Recruitment:* 2 people to be approached |
| **7** | **Spring Meeting:**  *Ideas:* we felt there could be a different feel to the Spring Meeting and the Autumn Gathering. It was likely that more of membership would prefer a day time to an evening so probably a Saturday.  Possibly the Spring could be a time of planting fresh ideas and the Autumn gathering in the harvest. Nuala noted the distinction between a time of nurturing and encouragement of inner growth in members and a time of looking at our skills and practice. As this Spring is a busy one for ML, we were keen to look to nourish ourselves. A speaker had led excellent time at Trainers Gathering at St Beuno’s on Sacred Wanderings encouraging participants in their noticing God in the natural world and she is our first choice.  While it would be wonderful to be at Manresa House soon, the garden is unlikely to be ready for the Spring Meeting. We noted that the Novices might be able to facilitate a meeting at some time. Sub group to consider venue  *Possible dates:* It would be good to offer speaker different options. After Easter 15, 22 or 29 April. Probable date 29 April  *Membership of Sub-group to plan:* 2 from Core Group with 2 non-Core Group people |
| **8** | *Possibility of Strategic Planning Session* with David Smolira SJ and Core Group about what ML are here for and how ML might best use our limited resources. We had agreed to this in principle in August, a Saturday morning or afternoon or a Sunday afternoon in Jan, Feb or March was preferred. If Manresa House was available that would be an ideal venue. |
| **9** | *Subs:* We agreed in August to return to this. As A.G.M. showed our finances to be healthy, we would not increase the subs for 2023 |
| **10** | *AOB:*  *Date of next meeting:* **Thurs 16 Feb on zoom 7.30-9.15**  *Request for Bursary:* received from one member – agreed 75% grant with proviso that if any of it not needed or if she needed more to come back to us  *Other items to return to in future or for future meetings:*  Topics that have been mentioned for future meetings include   1. Theology of Suffering 2. Discernment 3. Images of God: this coming from a concern that our language about God might sometimes be more inclusive than at present.   Item for agenda for next time: Is it time for a new questionnaire of membership to see what topics they would like considered at Meetings and Gatherings. |