

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH KIPPAX
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
14 February 2013.

Present: Peter Igoe-Taylor (Chair), Fr. Gerard McCormick MSC, Eman Basheer, Toni Cox, Larissa Davis, Marian England, Therese Kercher, Luan Nguyen, Ann Reynolds, Margaret Sheehan, Sabina Van Rooy, Joe Barr (minutes).

Agenda Item 1 **Opening and Welcome**

Father Gerard opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed members, particularly the new members. Peter Igoe-Taylor assumed the chair pro-tem.

Agenda Item 2 **Opening Prayer and Statement**

The Opening Prayer was led by Marian England. Sabina Van Rooy volunteered to prepare an Opening Prayer for the next meeting.

Agenda item 3 **Election of Chair and Deputy Chair**

Father Gerard and Marian explained the roles and responsibilities of the Chair and Deputy Chair. Nominations were sought for the positions for 2013. None were received and some of those present declined to be nominated because of work pressures. After discussion it was agreed that four members would accept the roles for six month periods as follows:

Feb-Jun 2013: Rebecca Jeffreys - Chair;	Peter Igoe Taylor – Deputy Chair.
Jul-Dec 2013: Peter Igoe-Taylor – Chair;	Larissa Davis – Deputy Chair.
Feb-Jun 2014: Larissa Davis – Chair;	Ann Reynolds – Deputy Chair.
Jul-Dec 2014: Ann Reynolds – Chair;	Deputy Chair to be decided.

In the absence of Rebecca, Peter Igoe-Taylor assumed the Chair for the meeting.

Agenda Item 4 **Apologies**

Apologies: Fr. Alfin Buarlele MSC, Stephanie Cox, Matthew Egan-Richards, Tom Halloran, Rebecca Jeffreys.

Agenda item 5 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

a. Acceptance of Minutes

Proposed: Sabina Van Rooy. **Seconded:** Margaret Sheehan.

b. Business arising from the Minutes. To be covered under separate Agenda Items

Agenda item 6 **Correspondence**

In. The Refugee Resettlement Group passed the PPC a copy of a letter to the MSC parish in Nauru offering to donate funds to support its work with refugees in detention. The RRC asked for the endorsement by the PPC and this was provided with enthusiasm.

Agenda Item 7**Matters arising from Reports submitted**

Refugee Resettlement Committee. The attached report had been circulated and there were no points to discuss. **Xtreme Youth Group.** Toni Cox provided the attached report forwarded by Stephanie.

World Youth Day. On behalf of her daughter, Toni enlarged on Stephanie's attached report and explained that, to fund the construction, the students are raising funds by various means, amongst which is the proposed Trivia Night at a venue to be decided. Stephanie sought the approval of the PPC to:

- Mount a display in the foyer of St John's explaining about WYD and her attendance;
- Advertise the Trivia Night in the foyer.

The PPC commended Stephanie's initiative and approved her requests. It was also suggested that she might provide a note for Compact and speak at Masses on a suitable date or dates.

Agenda Item 8**New Business**

PPC Formation Day. Marian explained that in 2012 it had been agreed that the PPC would benefit from a Formation Day early in the year to focus its attention on the spiritual as well as the social functions of PPC members. Father Gerard explained that this year he would like to see more emphasis on the spiritual and less attention to purely bureaucratic functions and he thought that the Formation Day would be an ideal way to promote this aspect. He would also like to clarify the commitments for elected and representative members of the PPC with elected members expected to attend all meetings but organisational representatives attending as required.

In discussion it was agreed that ideally the Formation Day should take place before the Parish Assembly on 7 and 14 April. After exploration of options it was found that this would be impossible because of other commitments. Other suggestions, including a number of weekday evenings and various weekend half-days, were discussed and eventually the PPC agreed that Saturday 4 May from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm at The Gathering Place would be the best option. Marian will seek suitable facilitators with suggestions being Liz-Anne Smith for spiritual guidance and Shane Dwyer (?) for practical matters.

Parish Assembly. Father Gerard explained that the Steering Group, consisting of himself, Marian, Tom Halloran, Judy Netting and Murray Bruce (facilitator) had been meeting to prepare for the Assembly. Sessions will run from 1.00pm to 4.00pm on Sunday afternoons on 7 and 14 April. He and Marian advised that it is intended that Session 1 on 7 April will start with Murray Bruce explaining "What is a Parish Plan" and the process of developing it, presentations will include one by Father Gerard on co-responsibility "Who are we as Church? – What do we do? (ministry)"; while Marian will present on the Parish Profile based on the recent Church Life Survey results. Session 2 on 14 April will seek parishioner input to the Parish Plan with study groups and discussions. The format for this has still to be agreed.

Father Gerard emphasised that the Parish Plan is to be implemented by parishioners, not the parish staff and not the PPC or any other group. Headings will include Building Community, Prayer and Worship, Identifying Priorities and Developing Strategies.

During discussions it was suggested that notices detailing dates and times, perhaps with content of the sessions, should be displayed in the foyer from March onwards.

Security Issues Regarding Buildings and Grounds. Marian advised that young people were sometimes using the lower car park for parties and leaving rubbish around the area to be cleared up the following day. On one occasion when told by Father Gerard that this was private land, the response was to the effect that there was no notice so use was obviously alright. Churches in other areas have had this problem and have been vandalised or suffered break-ins. After discussion, it was agreed that the first protective measure should be the erection of signs stating that the church grounds are private property. This should be followed by erection of a light or light, perhaps activated by motion sensors, to illuminate the car park. It was also suggested that an appeal be made in Compact for advice from any Security Adviser in the parish.

Belconnen Regional Pastoral Council Representation. Sabina asked for a volunteer to join her on the Regional Pastoral Council. Each parish in the Belconnen Region provides two representatives on the Council, usually from the PPC, and the nominated second representative has now left the PPC. Nobody volunteered to be a permanent representative but Eman agreed to attend the next meeting on 28 February with Sabina.

Agenda Item 9

Other business

St Joseph the Worker Group. Marian advised that the St Joseph the Worker Group had met and had changed its work method. Instead of Working Bees, the Group has developed Job Cards and members of the group can take cards and work on the nominated job at their own convenience.

Eman advised that a team of volunteers who use the Parish Centre has volunteered to paint it. The PPC welcomed their enthusiasm and the parish office will liaise with Eman as necessary.

Next meeting: Thursday 14 March at 7.30 pm.

The Meeting closed with a prayer at 9:30 pm.

**REPORT FROM RRC TO PPC
FOR THE PERIOD COVERING
5 DECEMBER 2012 TO 6 FEBRUARY 2013**

- 1) RRC met on 5 Dec 12 with 10 members present . List of 17 refugee families (62 people) being helped was tabled. There were 4 of these families (23 people) had no volunteer helping them at present. However, the other 13 families were being helped by at least one volunteer. Christmas Gift vouchers were provided to most families. Arrangements were made to begin complying with the requirements of the new ACT legislation - "Working With Vulnerable People Act" . The World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees was promoted on 20 January.

- 2) RRC met on 6 Feb 13 with 9 members present.. We had no new refugee families taken on. However 3 extra RRC volunteers were linked for the first time with 3 families (13 people) who were needing their help. Also 4 other RRC volunteers not yet linked were identified as being willing to start helping 3 families (19 people) who currently are needing help. RRC is aiming to have volunteer help available to all 62 people seeking our help by the March meeting. Also in the January /February period, RRC was represented at 3 events/meetings re settlement . RRC is considering whether it might offer help to people in Community Detention and similar circumstances, but we need to recruit and train more volunteers before this would be possible. In forward planning, RRC is arranging to celebrate Harmony Day in March with a public information night with guest speakers on Sun 17 March .

In February, RRC will be represented at a training session and a planning meeting re settlement. Currently RRC has 26 members of whom 12 are linked with one or more families and some others are being approached to confirm their continuing membership.

If the PPC has any specific Questions or Comments, please advise Bev Purnell, RRC Community Liaison Officer.

**Xtreme Youth Group
Parish Council Meeting
14th February 2013**

We have already had our first meeting of the year and it was very successful. The group is slowly growing in numbers and we are hoping to publicise Xtreme in the coming year to make sure all youth members of the parish are aware there is a youth group available to them. Our current members of the group are keen for another year of meetings and getting involved in the parish community.

The Xtreme group are currently getting organised to help with Good Friday's Stations of the Cross in a few weeks time.

**Australian Catholic University Fundraising
WYD 28th July 2013 Rio**

This coming July, I myself along with a group of students from the Australian Catholic University will be travelling to South America for World Youth Day 2013. As part of our pilgrimage we will be spending five days in Lima working with the Christian Life Movement to construct a chapel in a shanty town in Pamplona, Lima.

To help support and fund this mission project we will be hosting a Trivia Night on the 12th April here in Canberra (venue yet to be confirmed) and all funds raised will go towards helping the people of Pamplona. We would be grateful to have the support and blessings of the Kippax Parish in our Journey to WYD this year.