

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

Present: Rebecca Jeffreys (Chair), Fr. Gerard McCormick MSC, Fr. Alfin Buarlele MSC, Eman Basheer, Toni Cox, Stephanie Cox, Larissa Davis, Marian England, Ann Reynolds, Margaret Sheehan, Joe Barr (minutes).

Agenda Item 1 **Opening and Welcome**

Rebecca Jeffries opened the meeting and welcomed Council members.

Agenda Item 2 **Opening Prayer and Statement**

The Opening Prayer was led by Rebecca Jeffries. Marian advised that Sabina Van Rooy has volunteered to prepare an Opening Prayer for the next meeting.

Agenda Item 3 **Apologies**

Apologies: Peter Igoe-Taylor, Luan Nguyen, Matthew Egan-Richards, Tom Halloran, Sabina Van Rooy.

Agenda item 4 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

a. Acceptance of Minutes

Proposed: Larissa Davis. **Seconded:** Marian England.

b. Business arising from the Minutes.

Security. *Marian advised that no progress had been made on the Security issue*

Agenda item 5 **Correspondence**

None

Agenda Item 6 **Reports submitted**

Refugee Resettlement Committee. Attached.

Parish School of Religion. Attached

Parish Sacramental Team. Attached

Social Justice Committee. Attached

Belconnen Regional Council. Attached

Agenda Item 7 **Ongoing Business**

Parish Assembly. Father Gerard and Marian England reported that the Steering Group had met earlier in the day to discuss the format of the Assembly. The meeting had confirmed that the role of parishioners in implementation will be emphasised. The aim is to prepare a three year plan containing ideas and priorities for implementation, strategies, and time-lines.

On 7 April the meeting will open with a Prayer Liturgy which will be followed by three presentations:

- a. Marian England will give a snapshot of the parish and its development over 40 years, covering origins, connections and demographics
- b. Father Gerard will base his presentation on our Baptismal Vows and parishioners role in keeping them in relation to the parish
- c. Murray Bruce will explain and facilitate the planning process before establishing group discussions on various aspects.

Parishioners will begin discussions in groups according to their interests then report back to the quorum and identifying subjects to be considered during the following week. The session will conclude with afternoon tea.

Father Gerard distributed his ideas of the areas he would like to see covered in the Parish Plan. These are:

- Parish Life and Ministry
- Prayer and Worship
- Pastoral Care and Service
- Education and Evangelisation

In each of these areas he would like parishioners to identify priorities and strategies from which time-lines can be developed.

The PPC discussed points that might be raised under the different areas and were invited to make suggestions after they had considered them in more detail in the next week.

Ways of promoting attendance at the Assembly were discussed and four members agreed to speak at Sunday Masses. Fr Gerard and Marian England will provide some notes as guidelines.

PPC Formation. In discussion about the plans for PPC Formation it was agreed that at the next meeting, which will take place between the Assembly sessions, the first hour will be spent on PPC business and the second on Formation. MSC parishes are being encouraged to become more prayerful and Formation will cover the role and functions of the PPC and its way of operating. It was agreed that Formation should really take place as a new PPC was elected that it might be better if the PPC year ran from mid-year to mid-year as the Christmas/New Year period is already busy and the PPC does not meet in January. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

The planned PPC Retreat at The Gathering Place was postponed until later in the year.

Agenda Item 8	Other business
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Parish Bookstall Management. Marian advised that Brian Green has managed the bookstall for ten years and would like to retire. Ann Reynolds pointed out that the workload of the position was quite onerous and that finding a replacement might be difficult. It was agreed to advertise in Compact for a volunteer to take over the position.

Next meeting: Thursday 11 April at 7.30 pm.
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The Meeting closed with a prayer at 9:30 pm.

**Refugee Resettlement Group report to St John the Apostle Parish Pastoral Council,
Thursday 21 February 2013**

The RRC has experienced considerable upheaval in the past 12 months.

We were unable to fill all vacant positions at the annual general meeting. Christine Stewart, acting chair, agreed to remain as the chair, but found her health to be such that she could not continue in this role.

The position of chair has remained unfilled. The office bearers have rotated the chairing of meetings and we consult with each other for matters of finance and refugee assistance.

Bev Purnell undertook to be the contact person for the group with the agencies such as Companion House and MARSS. Bev has a great deal of 'corporate knowledge' in regards to the RRG and has current contacts within these agencies. It is with regret that we accepted the resignation of Sabina Van Rooy, our treasurer. Sabina had spent many months sorting out our financial records. She will be greatly missed.

With the assistance of Bev Purnell and Margaret Luck I have finally managed to have our volunteer contact list and our Client list updated. We have 20 active volunteers. Some of whom still work and are therefore restricted in the amount of help they can offer

Some have supported the same group of clients for several years and will now have to transition them to more appropriate agencies and contacts. If we don't do this we will not have the capacity to help new refugees in our area. One of the decisions the group made at the AGM in 2012 was to limit our area to the Belconnen Region. We do not have the volunteer numbers to go beyond this.

At Christmas time we provided eight refugee families with vouchers of \$100 each to assist with food etc

We gave a cheque to St V de P to assist with refugee families in need over the holiday season. We also gave \$500 to Catholic Care to assist with unaccompanied minors over the holiday period. We have assisted financially with driver training and transport to the children's hospital in Sydney.

As a member of the RRG combined with my Social Justice hat I have spoken to the ST Francis Xavier School assembly and Year 6 students at St John. We received considerable monies from the students at St Francis and from the Multicultural Food Fair here in our parish.

For all the support we receive we are most grateful.

We will need more volunteers to help with the caring of the refugees and we need volunteers to provide the administrative support to these volunteers.

If our volunteer numbers continue to dwindle we may, within the next few years, find that we can no longer be hands-on helpers of refugees. That would indeed be a shame. However, to meet financial obligations and to manage on superannuation which cannot be topped up with a pension until the mid to late 60s people have to work for longer; fewer appear to be taking early retirement. This has considerable impact on the day time availability of volunteers as well as the energy levels of our volunteers. All of these factors, and more, have reduced our volunteer numbers.

The volunteers we have do a fabulous job with our clients; they witness their belief and faith every time they interact with the refugees. It is a pleasure to be an administrative supporter for them.

Sigrid Kropp
Member and Client Contact Secretary

PARISH PASTORAL REPORT

March 2013

Parish School of Religion

- Enrolments are currently happening for all classes Kinder to Year 6. Sacramental classes for 2013 are Year 2 – reconciliation, Year 3 – Eucharist and Year 6 - Confirmation.
- Classes are held in the Parish Centre each Sunday morning during the school term and are from 9.15am to 9.55am.

Parish Sacramental Team

- First meeting for the year has been held with sacramental dates and parent evenings organised for the year.
- *Sacramental Dates*
 - Confirmation Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th May
 - Eucharist
 - Reconciliation Thursday 7th November
- *Parent Evening Dates*
 - Confirmation Thursday 4th & Wednesday 10th April.
 - Eucharist Wednesday 12th & Wednesday 19th June
 - Reconciliation Wednesday 11th & Wednesday 18th September
- Presentation Masses
 - Confirmation 4/5 May
 - Eucharist 26/30 June
 - Reconciliation

Follow up meetings will be held during the year.

Social Justice Committee

- Meetings have been held in February and March on the first Sunday of the month after the 10am Mass
- February Members assisted with the SVD Doorknock as counters on each Sunday.
- March Prepared Liturgy of Forgiveness with the Liturgy group, and served supper after the celebration. There was a great parish response to the Liturgy of Forgiveness
- April Members will be present at the Parish Assembly on 7 and 14 April.
- Social Justices Dates are published in the Compact and displayed on notice board in the Church Foyer

Belconnen Regional Council

- First meeting of the year was held on Thursday 28 February with a potluck dinner to begin.
- *Election of Officer Bearers*
 - Chairperson Michael Carrberry from Charnwood
 - Vic Chairperson – Sabina Van Rooy from Kippax
 - Secretary – Neil Sealbrook from Kaleen
- *Dates for 2013*
 - Parish Priests Luncheon -29 June 2013 at Kippax
 - Regional Dinner - 31 October at SFX College
 - Meeting Dates – 23 May at Evatt, 22 August at Kippax, 28 November at Page and 27 February at Charnwood

Sabina Van Rooy March 2013