

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
HELD IN THE LIBRARY ON THURSDAY 13 MARCH 2014.**

Present: Fr Alfin Buarlele msc, Henri Clementine, Helen Kennedy, Ted Kildea, Kathy Teys, Carl Madsen, Fr Gerard McCormick msc, Agnes Pham, Angela Pisciotta, Marian England, Sabina Van Rooy (Chair), Robert Breen (minutes).

Agenda Item 1 - Opening and Welcome.

Sabina opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.

Agenda Item 2 - Opening Prayer.

Helen led the opening liturgy by reading a passage from Isaiah 25, 6 - 10 followed by a poem "Billy Tea and Damper" by Chris Uhlmann which has an allusion of Easter.

Agenda Item 3 – Apologies.

Apologies were received from Matthew Pham and Victoria Scarano.

Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The need for the following corrections was agreed:

- under "Present", add "Henri Clementine"; and
- under "Other Business – PPC Membership Details", second line, amend "Conpact" to read "Compact".

Ted requested the minutes be distributed earlier rather than just before the next meeting.

Agenda Item 4 - Correspondence.

Out: Nil.

In: Marian advised a proposal had been received for the replacement of the church entrance sliding doors with hinged doors. The meeting noted this correspondence.

Agenda Item 5 – Article for Reflection.

The meeting moved to the paper “Reflection on Time Talent and Treasure” with members reading portions in turn after which our use of “Time” was discussed. The second part of the document headed “Stewardship of Our Talents” was left for members to read and contemplate between meetings.

Agenda Item 6 – Business.

Stewardship. Fr Gerard stated the need to open up stewardship to all members of the parish, for more people to contribute, for younger members to replace those who have been serving for extended periods. He cited the fact that five teachers at St John’s primary school were being trained to be special ministers at school masses. Responding to Ted’s question as to the need for many communion servers at masses, Fr Gerard stated this was dictated by the shape of the church building. Kathy suggested the reluctance of some parishioners to volunteer their services could be due to their innate shyness and the perception that there was a “hardcore” of members who dominated church groups and activities. Ted suggested that, in addition to the photos of PPC members being displayed in the church foyer, that similar photos of the heads of parish groups be so displayed to enable persons wishing to offer their services in specific areas, to identify who to approach.

Queensland Drought. The Council noted the information contained in the Agenda that the bucket collection for “The Give back campaign – buy a bale of hay” had raised \$1.136.70 – a satisfactory result.

Liturgy Assembly – Saturday 17 May. Fr Gerard advised that everything is in place for the assembly which will be attended by Fr Stephen Hackett msc, an expert in church architecture. In the knowledge that the main topic to be considered will be a place for the baptismal font, Ted wondered whether the Council might not have more important matters to consider. In responding Fr Gerard emphasised the need to have a dedicated location for the celebration of this important sacrament of the Church. Fr Alfin supported this by stating the importance of people understanding the holy places within the church and to educate them as to why things are where they are. Henri opined that a church should be a place of quiet reflection and implied this should be maintained. Fr Gerard replied such matters were the reason for the Assembly; it is expected to last four hours “at the most”.

Open Parish Meeting – (Pastoral Plan 12 Months on). Setting a Date. Marian explained this meeting will present an opportunity to report progress on the implementation of the Pastoral Plan and for the various church groups to report on their activities. The meeting set the date as Thursday 8 May; Sabina will facilitate the event which is expected to last two hours “at the most”.

Reporting System for Parish Groups to PPC. Fr Gerard explained the need for the Council to have an ongoing knowledge of the activities of parish groups. Marian stated she will email all groups asking them to provide reports for the next PPC meeting. Henri suggested the email be couched in terms of sharing of information rather than reporting to the Council.

Seniors Retreat – August or September 2014. Marian explained that requests had been received for a seniors retreat within the parish. Henri queried the “within parish’ concept opining that one of the features of a retreat was to get away from local and distracting influences. Carl wondered how long such a retreat would be – one day, day and/or night. Marian said these aspects would be determined.

Liturgy of Lament – Monday 31 March 2014. Fr Gerard explained the concept of a liturgy of lament as an opportunity to pray about matters about which the parish laments the way things are in regard to particular events or activities. He cited the treatment of asylum seekers as an example. The community can express its dissatisfaction with situations and respond with prayer and in other ways.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation – St Monica’s 10 April, St Matthews” 11 April. Council noted the dates set down for these activities.

Other Matters.

RCIA 2015 – Inquiry Night, 2 April 2014. Council noted the date for this event.

Harmony Day – Friday 21 May. Council noted the date of this event.

Acknowledgement of the Original Owners. Fr Gerard stated the need for the parish to regularly acknowledge the original owners of country in the parish’s liturgy. The matter is with the Liturgy Committee and is expected to occur on the first Sunday of each month. Marian will arrange for an item to be included in *Compact* in this regard.

Inclusion of Matters in the Parish Calendar. Ted noted that there is no mention of the St Vincent de Paul Society activities in the Parish Calendar. Council agreed these should be included including the Conference’s meeting every two weeks.

Closure and Next Meeting.

Sabina led members in the recital of the silver card text “The Word”, Jules Chevalier, 1900 and closed the meeting at 9.25 PM. The **next meeting** of the Council is scheduled for **Thursday 10 April commencing at 7.30 PM.**

Robert Breen
Minutes Secretary.

15 March 2014