

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
HELD IN THE LIBRARY ON THURSDAY 12 JUNE 2014.**

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

Agenda Item 1 - Opening and Welcome.

Sabina opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.

Agenda Item 2 - Opening Prayer.

The opening prayer took the form of Marian presenting a scripture reading from St John's Gospel. Henri enquired as to how prayer presenters for Pastoral Council meetings are chosen – Fr Gerard explained.

Agenda Item 3 – Apologies.

Apologies were received from Helen Kennedy, Agnes Phan, Matthew Phan and Victoria Scarano.

Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Sabina invited comment on the minutes of the previous meeting – there was general acceptance of the minutes as published.

Agenda Item 4 - Correspondence.

Out: Nil.

In: Email from Beverly Parnell regarding Refugee Week 2014 and inviting participation.

Ted distributed copies of a CD “The Miracle of Darien” and invited members to listen to the disc and consider its message.

Sabina reminded members that the role of the Council is to plan using the Pastoral Plan and asked members to keep this very important fact in mind.

Marian stated that the Refugee Group has a guest speaker coming and suggested the embarrassment of a previous speaker delivering an address to a poorly attended meeting, be avoided.

Fr Gerard stated the parish has many groups and the Council's role is not to be closely involved with them all. He advised that the future of the Refugee Committee has been in doubt for some time and it may not continue. He too emphasised the Council's role as one of planning.

Agenda Item 5 – Article for Reflection.

The meeting moved to the paper "Reflection Article, June 12, 2014, The Council as a Pastoral Planning Board" which was read in turn by members and progressively discussed. Sabina asked that members review the document between meetings including the unread part "Planning, Not Implementation" for possible further discussion at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 6 – Business.

PPC Photographs on Notice Board. Sabina raised the matter of PPC members' photographs on the parish notice board and it was agreed this should be finalized.

Liturgy Assembly. Fr Gerard referred to the seminar by Dr Stephen Hackett on the evening of 17 May on church layout and fitment and reminded councilors that it is not a plan to change the church, just to complete it. He emphasized the two non-negotiable items for determination – a place for the holy oils, and a place for the baptism. The term "tweaking" coined by Angela was readily accepted as appropriate. Fr Gerard advised that a steering committee had been formed to consider the suggestions of persons attending the follow-up liturgy meeting. Some of the members of the steering committee were named.

Open PPC Meeting 8 May. Commenting on this meeting Fr Gerard opined it was a somewhat disappointing meeting in that it focused on actions rather than strategies. Marian handed out a reprint of the Parish Pastoral Plan 2013-2016. Subsequent discussion led to consensus that the focus of the Council should be Pastoral Care in three parts:

- conduct a review;
- consider forming a sub-group; and
- consider the appointment of a care worker.

Fr Gerard suggested the sub-group be formed to conduct the review – this was agreed.

Seniors' Retreat. Marian advised the meeting this retreat is planned for Wednesday 24, Thursday 25 and Friday 26 September and will address the "Spirituality of Aging Carers". It is envisaged the retreat will involve half-day sessions and will be conducted downstairs in the Parish Centre.

Agenda Item 7 – New Business

Confirmation. Marian reported that 42 children were confirmed in the recently completed program. Not all applicants were from the Parish School, all administration was done by the Church office. A small percentage of the children live within the parish. This is an ongoing issue which is being addressed.

Evangelisation. Marian handed out a brochure “Proclaim 2014 – *Living the Joy of The Gospel in Parishes*” relating to a Conference on the New Evangelisation to be held at The Concourse. Chatswood 21 – 23 August 2014. Proclaim 2014 is a project of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference organised by the National Office of Evangelisation. Fr Gerard explained this event is a form of evangelisation

Closure and Next Meeting.

Sabina advised members of the Tapestry of Voices group meeting to be held on 10 August; she will keep members informed in this regard.

Sabina led members in the recital of the silver card text “The Word”, Jules Chevalier, 1900 and closed the meeting at 9.25 PM.

Sabina requested members look again at the “Reflections” document leading up to the **next meeting** of the Council which is scheduled for **Thursday 10 July commencing at 7.30 PM.**

Robert Breen
Minutes Secretary.

15 June 2014