

St John the Apostle Catholic Community

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved.....Forever!



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL HELD IN THE LIBRARY ON THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2014.

Present: Sabina Van Rooy (Chair), Fr Gerard McCormick msc, Fr Alfin Buarlele msc, Marian England, Henri Clementine, Helen Kennedy, Carl Madsen, Kathy Teys, Sarah Redgrove, Robert Breen (minutes).

Agenda Item 1 - Opening and Welcome.

Sabina opened the meeting welcoming all those attending particularly Sarah Redgrove, acting Religion Education Teacher who was standing in for Victoria Scarano who is on long service leave.

Agenda Item 2 – Apologies.

Apologies were received from Victoria Scarano, Angela Pisciotta, and Agnes Phan.

Minutes of Previous (14 August) Meeting. Moved Henri Clementine, seconded Kathy Teys, that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true record of that meeting. CARRIED.

Agenda Item 3 - Correspondence.

Out: Nil.

In: Letter from Bevil Purnell regarding Child Protection Sunday see “New Business”.

Agenda Item 4 – Article for Reflection.

Sabina invited members to read the paragraph # 28 of *Evangelii Gaudium* (November 2013) which Kathy subsequently read aloud. After reflection Council members discussed portions which particularly struck a core with them.

Agenda Item 5 – Prayer.

Marian read a prayer “A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 3:3-17. which members contemplated and briefly commented on.

Agenda Item 6 – Business.

Pastoral Care Review 31 August 2014. The number attending the Review meeting was “in the mid teens”. The delivery of pastoral care was reviewed and the “What extra things need to be done?”: question addressed. This was seen to include arranging transport for those having difficulty getting to Mass. Henri suggested companionship and help in the home for those who are alone. The Church’s volunteer groups were acknowledged as sources of knowledge of needy people in the parish. Sabina also suggested those who take communion to the sick have knowledge of those needing help. Fr Gerard advised of his intention to perform anointing-of-the-sick ceremonies in two main event activities twice a year rather than monthly as is now the routine. He proposed this change be planned to commence in 2015. The PPC agreed that a bereavement team be established in 2015. Fr Alfin made suggestions about the role of the team and suggested the Council get its structures in place over time,

Proclaim 2014. Fr Gerard and Marian attended this conference on 21-23 August. It included keynote speakers from the Parish of The Nativity in Baltimore, USA which had reversed the declining of numbers at church and more than doubled Mass attendance. This was done, in part, by the application of “Music, Message and Ministry” to people considered to be “contributors not consumers”. Both Fr Gerard and Marian had found the conference well worthwhile and very stimulating.

Liturgy Space - Development. The activity to “complete” the church is progressing satisfactorily – Sabina and Henri are members of the steering committee which has examined questions such as “What is desired?” “What is achievable?” The baptismal font project is “going OK”, the sacred vessels are almost ready for delivery – they will have a design quite unique to St Johns’. One suggestion which is seen to have merit is to modify the ambo to make it height adjustable and thereby accessible to all parishioners. The Completion of Church Steering Committee meets next on 17 September.

Thank you BBQ – 23 November. The PPC will host the barbeque to thank the parish’s volunteers – the members of all the ministries including those on the Time and Talent sheet/s. Marian will discuss arrangements with Social Coordinator Toni Cox.

Developing guidelines for the PPC. Noting the guidelines distributed with the minutes of the last meeting, Fr Gerard opined that the Council should make them its own and tabled an amended version for consideration and explained changes he was suggesting. Discussion led to agreement that the Council may consist of up to 10 members and no less than 6, the requirement for “at least eight meetings each year” should be deleted, that “Sub-committees” need not be “At the discretion of the parish priest”, that members will consider the draft between meetings including the size of a quorum for meetings and make suggestions to Fr Gerard, and that these changes are agreed. Marian opined the need for PPC members to have time together – retreat style. Fr Gerard suggested this be in 2015.

Agenda Item 7 – New Business

Eucharistic Celebrations - 2015. Fr Gerard raised the question of arrangements required in light of the forthcoming departure of Fr Alfin. He advised Elfin’s replacement may be someone from overseas. There is a need to inform the parish soon and it was agreed this

should take the form of announcements by Fr Gerard from the pulpit. The committee that considers priestly postings does not meet until 22 October.

Child Protection Sunday. The Council agreed that a petition be compiled and sent to the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives expressing concern along the lines contained in the letter from Bevil Purnell. This petition is to be brought to the attention of parishioners and made available for signing over a two week period.

Letter from St John's School Year 6 Blue. Henri referred to the letter received from Year 6 Blue of St John's school expressing thanks to parish ministry members for their contributions. He expressed delight at this initiative which members endorsed.

PPC Nominations. Time having expired; this matter was left for consideration by the Council at its next meeting.

Closure and Next Meeting.

In closing the meeting, Sabina led members in the recital of the silver card text "The Word", Jules Chevalier, 1900.

The **next meeting** of the Council is scheduled for **Thursday 9 October 2014 commencing at 7.30 PM.**

Robert Breen
Minutes Secretary.

16 September 2014