

**COMBINED ST JOHN THE APOSTLE KIPPAX AND ST THOMAS AQUINAS
CHARNWOOD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
7 April 2025 – 1:30pm**

Present: Fr Tru Nguyen msc, Kirsty Vera, Sabina Van Rooy, Peter Polkinghorne, John Drury, Trevor Williams, Rod Goodison, Michael Carberry, Paul Winter, Sharon Greaves, Joshua Osborne-Goldsborough [via phone]

Fr. Tru – Chair
Sharon Greaves – Note taker

Fr. Tru opened with prayer

Introductions of each person present

Apology to Peter Polkinghorne for not receiving the email invitation to the meeting by Fr. Tru.

Finance Reports for both parishes were handed to all to read

Fr. Tru has requested that a Finance Audit be done for Charnwood parish prior to the merger of finances

Kirsty Vera addressed the reports from the St John the Apostle Parish Financial Audit taken on the 2024 finances earlier this year.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Income support was questioned by Paul Winter – Kirsty Vera responded with Planned Giving pledge requests. John Drury supported Kirsty about the support requests via special appeals and also advertising in the parish about Bequests.

Trevor Williams acknowledged the investment account and the movements in finances on that account.

John Drury addressed the need for expenses to be spent on the property of St John the Apostle Parish.

Rod Goodison expressed concerns on property expenses that Charnwood parish will be experiencing in the future.

Data report from Kippax Parish regarding finances and the age of parishioners and percentage of giving and the future of the planned giving finances in the future. Peter Polkinghorne questioned if this report could be done for Charnwood Parish. Sharon Greaves responded that there is insufficient data at Charnwood to provide these reports.

Michael Carberry referred to Fr. Jim Monaghan [visiting clergy from SA] is currently donating funds to Charnwood Parish in lieu of rent, as he stays in the Charnwood presbytery looking after his elderly father in a nursing home.

Paul Winter mentioned that Marymead may use the Parish Centre at Charnwood parish for meetings, and donations would be made for the use of the parish centre to the Parish.

Trevor Williams addressed the Mass attendance for both parishes. It is noted that Kippax parish has 3 times the mass attendance for Charnwood Parish

Rod Goodisson referred to the door knock in the suburb of Dunlop when it was first built as a form of attracting new parishioners onto planned giving. Result was only 1 person signed up to planned giving.

Sabina Van Rooy questioned the Tiny Home proposal with Marymead. Rod Goodisson responded about the dealings and findings etc by Marymead. There will be some income provided to the Charnwood Parish from Marymead and also they have suggested they pay for the utilities of water, Electricity and Gas for the Church account. Sharon Greaves clarified that there are two accounts for each of the utilities, one for the Church and one for the Parish Centre/Office/Presbytery. The suggested payment by Marymead would only be the Church accounts.

John Drury brought the conversation back to income in Charnwood parish and if they have increased Planned Givers from new parishioners, if they have done appeals to support the finances. The answer was Charnwood parish has not had an increase in planned givers nor the need for a direct appeal.

Fr. Tru stated that people today are more likely to give to a direct appeal than planned giving because they know what their money is actually being used for. There is a clear purpose for the funds.

Peter Polkinghorne stated parishioners are more transient now and more multicultural and they are more inclined to give to an appeal than planned giving.

Trevor Williams addressed what repairs required have been addressed at Charnwood Parish. Rod Goodisson acknowledge the courtyard pergola needs replacing, there are cracks in the Sanctuary area of the church and cracks in the parish centre/office/presbytery. A report was done a few years ago about the foundations and the building as it was built on a clay base. No quote has been organised yet.

Paul Winter discussed future repairs for Charnwood parish and maybe a direct appeal could be done for this.

Paul Winter raised the possibility of the Charnwood parish presbytery being used by someone to live in once it became empty unless the MSC priests will live there.

MERGER:

Fr. Tru raised a time frame for the merger of the finance accounts for both parishes. There will be a meeting with the Archdiocesan Parish Support on Thursday 10 April, Fr. Tru asked who would like to attend.

Attendees are: Fr. Tru, Kirsty Vera, Sharon Greaves, Peter Polkinghorne and Joshua Osborne-Goldsborough

Kirsty Vera asked what does merging the accounts look like? Sabina Van Rooy suggested an Audit to be done for both parishes as soon as possible, will the merger of accounts take place at the end of the financial year? Will it be as soon as possible or give time to plan for? A timeline will be required

Sabina Van Rooy noted that communications to parishioners is essential regarding the merger of finances. It needs to be transparent of what will be intending to happen and when, and once it is completed.

John Drury raised a budget will be required for the merged finances. Peter Polkinghorne responded that he can look at this.

Sharon Greaves noted that there are existing expenses at both parishes, such as domain name, website hosting fees, internet contracts. Both parishes are paying for these, one or both parishes will lose money depending on when the merger takes place

Paul Winter raised staffing and bringing in an outsider to analyse the situation and provide key information and help in moving forward

Rod Goodisson asked Kirsty Vera how the processes for finances are different in each parish and how to move forward. Kirsty and Sharon both responded with the current differences.

Joshua Osborne-Goldsborough commented with the need for compromise in operational and finances services, what is the best way for the parish to move forward? Then take this suggestion to the Archdiocese instead of waiting to be told what they want. Increase in transparency is a must and also to bring the parishioners along the journey of the merger.

Peter Polkinghorne raised the Kippax Candle Account and it needs to come onboard in the reporting in MYOB. Some money has already been moved from it to cover Long Service Leave provisions and expenses.

Fr. Tru raised how the combined finance committee will move forward

The next combined Finance Committees meeting for Wednesday 14 May at 6:00pm at Kippax Parish.

Meeting ended at 2:40pm