

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 12 NOVEMBER 2015.

Present: Sabina Van Rooy (Chair), Fr Gerard McCormick, Marian England, Fr Paul Browne, Hele Kennedy, Carl Madsen, Robert Breen (minutes).

Agenda Item 1 – Opening and Welcome.

Sabina opened the meeting, welcomed those attending and remarked this would be the last PPC meeting for 2015. Members recited and reflected on the Council's mission statement.

Agenda Item 2 - Apologies.

Apologies were received from Henri Clementine and Agnes Pham.

Agenda Item 3 – Correspondence.

In: Council noted a further letter had been received from Bert Broekhuysse regarding his "Welcome Christ into Christmas". Bert's finding was that there were enough people interested to make it viable.

Out: Nil.

Agenda Item 4 – Minutes.

The minutes of the October meeting were reviewed. Moved Carl Madsen, seconded Helen Kennedy, that they be accepted as a true record of that meeting. CARRIED.

4a. Business arising from the minutes.

Sanctuary Project. Council noted that this project will not now commence until 8 February 2016.

PPC Membership. Sabina and Agnes will retire from Council at the end of the year. Carl, Helen and Henri will continue whilst expressions of interest in joining the PPC had been received from Tim Gill and Leilah Ayton.

From the Twilight retreat ...

Fr Paul had suggested at the October meeting that Council reflect at meetings on matters which had risen at the retreat and asked Marian to include this on subsequent agenda. This she had done the items being:

- Be alive to the guidance of the Spirit
- Live out as a group the Mission Statement of the community.

Members reflected on these matters.

AGENDA

5. Prayer:

Marian advised she would shift this item further up the agenda as agreed at the last meeting. At Sabina's suggestion Council reflected on the Mission Statement and achievements of the past 12 months; this was followed by a brief prayer.

6. Business:

Children's role in the liturgy – Developing a policy. Council discussed the development of policy relating to children's role in the liturgy. The need to contact all participants to find a suitable time for a meeting to progress the matter, was noted. It is intended to email a discussion document to all interested persons.

Parish Pastoral Plan. The need to keep this matter moving including the promulgation of the Plan to parishioners was confirmed. Marian has erected a Pastoral Plan display in the foyer for the information of members.

Pastoral care – meeting Wednesday 25 November. The date for this meeting was noted by Council members.

Belconnen Parishes – meeting Thursday 19 November. Marian advised the meeting will occur at Yarralumla. Discussion revealed the committee will be composed of three ladies, three men, two priests (Fr Michael Mullen of Aranda and Fr Luis Vivocente of Evatt) and a chairperson, a total of nine. Sister Colleen of Charnwood has spoken on the subject at all masses of that parish.

Year of Mercy – 8 December 2015. (See the attached Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Christopher Prowse.) Fr Gerard advised the dates for the Y of M have been changed to 17 December 2015 to 16 November 2016. Fr Paul opined that the details of this activity are uncertain and an initiative is awaited. Sabina suggested the matter be put to the Liturgy Committee, Fr Gerard thought a sub-committee might be formed to organise the parish's involvement. Fr Paul suggested it might be an opportunity for an activity for the "Belconnen" parish. No decision was arrived at.

Ministry Formation. Marian spoke on the development of ministries in parish members having suggested a Ministry Expo on 20 April 2016, Prayer discernment of gifts and talents on 6 April 2016 and a Ministry day on 9/10 April 2016. These are

aimed at identifying the talents of parish members and developing them for the benefit of the church community. Fr Gerard spoke of an activity at his Brisbane parish where a barbeque was held three times a year to foster parishioners' ministries and thought something similar might work at Kippax.

Closure and Next Meeting

Fr Gerard thanked Sabina for her service to the Council over many years and after closure of the meeting provided drinks and snacks in acknowledgment of a job well done.

In closing the meeting at 8.37 PM Sabina led members in the recital of the silver card text "The Word", Jules Chevalier, 1900.

The **next meeting** of the Council was confirmed as scheduled for **Thursday 11 February and that 2016 meetings will continue to be held on the second Thursday of the month as per past practice.**

Robert Breen
Minute Secretary

30 November 2015

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE

PASTORAL LETTER

ON

**THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
(8 December 2015 – 13 November 2016)**

LET US WELCOME THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

The merciful tenderness of God encounters everyone and excludes no one. This "loving kindness of the heart of our God" (Luke 1:78) is made manifest in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Alleluia!

The announcement of our Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy is a prophetic proclamation from His Holiness, Pope Francis, to draw us all closer to this merciful embrace of the Father of all mercies.

It will commence throughout the Catholic world on 8 December 2015 and conclude on 13 November 2016.

Jubilee years commenced about 700 years ago in the Church. There have been 26 Jubilees and only three have been "extraordinary" (including this one).

Pope Francis has explained the terms of reference around the Jubilee Year in his "bull of indiction," entitled *Misericordiae Vultus* ("The Face of Mercy"). Please read this carefully

https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco_bolla_20150411_misericordiae-vultus.html.

At the start of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in Rome. He explains that it will become "a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God, who consoles, pardons and instils hope. "In our Archdiocese a local Door of Mercy will also be opened at St Christopher's Cathedral, Canberra at this time.

The theme of the Jubilee Year is: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." This will ensure that both the profoundly, spiritual and corporal works of Mercy will be a true focus.

I encourage all parishes, schools, communities and ecclesial movements in the Archdiocese to respond generously to the Pope's invitation to us all.

There will be many opportunities to receive and express God's Mercy over the Jubilee Year.

May our parishes become even more what they are: centres of God's Mercy. May all of us live out our Baptismal vocation and become even further who we are: missionaries of God's Mercy.

May Mary, who gave birth to the source of all mercy, Jesus Christ, lead us to her Son in our Jubilee Year of Mercy. May we have the trust to place all our sufferings (miseries) into the loving heart of Jesus. This is truly the Mercy encounter we all pray for in these times.

Lent 2016 is an obvious penitential time in our liturgical life to focus on Mercy. Let us highlight the importance of the Sacrament of Penance during this time.

Another great opportunity is the invitation of Pope Francis for a worldwide "24 Hours for the Lord" (4-5 March 2016) in which confessions and prayer vigils are asked to be held in Dioceses throughout the world.

A particular focus for our Archdiocese will be regional deanery gatherings in 2016 that will focus on the theme of MERCY IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE. These will follow up on our most successful Archdiocesan gathering in March 2015. They will also give us a practical focus to express God's merciful tenderness in a crucial area that concerns us all so much.

As further practical resources and themes for this Jubilee Year of Mercy become available, our Archdiocesan agencies will make them available to you.

In the present time, however, I call on all of us in the Archdiocese to become further informed. Let us begin thinking practically on how we can welcome this great Mercy moment on the local level.

"In this Jubilee Year, may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. May she never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort. May the Church become the voice of every man and woman, and repeat confidently without end: "Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old" (Ps 25:6)."

Pope Francis
(Misericordiae Vultus, 25)

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn