

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 8 OCTOBER 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 she couldn't believe it's October already!

Agenda Item 2 - Apologies.

Apologies were received from Henri Clementine and Agnes Pham.

Agenda Item 3 – Correspondence.

In: A letter from Bert Broekhouse responding to the Council's August letter, reporting on his survey of support for his proposal to "Welcome Christ into Christmas" concluding it was not practical at this stage and leaving further initiatives and action to the Parish Council. Council agreed its response should be one of noting the letter's contents and that it was not a body which "does things".

Out: Nil.

Agenda Item 4 – Minutes.

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

4a. Business arising from the minutes.

Sanctuary Project. It was reported that the builder is awaiting final pricing for timber floored sanctuary (southern mountain ash and jarrah) with wooden hand rails. This option will be cheaper than a carpeted floor. Work will commence "next week" and the project is on track for completion by Christmas.

PPC Membership. Council members will address the congregation at Masses from a common script with personal insights.

Ministry thank-you lunch – 8 November 2015. The date for this event has been changed because of competing issues. The function will consist of a pot lunch commencing at 12 noon. A separate function will be held for members involved in the children's choir – a morning tea in the foyer after Mass on Sunday 3 December is envisaged. This will need to be checked with the relevant people.

AGENDA

Agenda Item 5 – Prayer.

Fr Gerard led this quiet time with a reading from St John's gospel followed by a short prayer.

Agenda Item 6 – Business.

Twilight Retreat continued ...

Fr Paul distributed the final summation of the questions arising from the Twilight Retreat and suggested Council members keep the final document and reflect on its contents from time to time. Sabina suggested the Council incorporate the guidelines in the document at the next meeting and asked Marian to include on the agenda. Helen proposed that the Council's prayer item be held at the beginning of each meeting – Fr Gerard said it was good to have a prayer half way through the agenda. Sabina thanked Fr Paul for his good work in this matter which benefits from his broad knowledge and experience.

Parish Pastoral Plan.

Sabina noted that a strong element in the Plan is pastoral care. In reviewing comments received it was noted that some showed a lack of understanding of the overall activities of the parish. It was agreed a large board listing the wide range of activities and events of the parish should be placed in the church foyer for the information of members. This could be complemented by a notice/notices in *Compact* which should include notices on welcome to new arrivals. Marian proposed the use of an information pack to be available for new members; Fr Gerard suggested this be introduced in 2016. Discussion also covered ministry to elderly members including games mornings and similar activities.

Belconnen Parishes.

Fr Paul and Marian had attended a meeting of the Belconnen region parishes where the subject of parish amalgamation was raised. These parishes are considered to be over-resourced compared to country NSW. Models were Page and Aranda where some sharing already exists, St Monica's and St Michaels where there is a desire to amalgamate and Charnwood and St Johns where there is presently no strong drive to combine. A committee has been formed and the matter is being driven by the Vicar General. Discussion led to agreement that parish members needed to be informed of these developments as soon as practical to avoid

uninformed speculation and anxiety. It was agreed an article should appear in Fr Gerard's column in the forthcoming *Compact* stating in general terms the situation, along the following lines, "As required by the Vicar general a committee has been formed composed of four men and four women, both priests and lay people, to consider issues relating to the Belconnen parishes".

Year of Mercy.

The Council considered the Year of Mercy event which is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 8 December 2015; this is an initiative of Pope Francis as put out in a recent letter and relates to the Liturgy of Forgiveness. On 31 October a seminar on the subject will be held at the Rheinberger Function Centre, Yarralumla – Sabina hopes to attend.

Other Matters

Belconnen Regional Parishes Dinner.

This event catered for by the hospitality studies section of Years 11 and 12 of St Francis Xavier College has been noted previously by the Council. Sabina will obtain the essential information on the event for distribution. The cost is anticipated to be \$30 to \$35 per head.

Closure and Next Meeting

In closing the meeting at 905 PM 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 12 November commencing at 7.30 PM.**

Robert Breen
Minute Secretary

22 October 2015