

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 FEBRUARY 2016.

Present: Fr Gerard McCormick, Marian England, Helen Kennedy, Henri Clementine, Stephanie Stewart (Religious Education Coordinator), Robert Breen (minute secretary).

Agenda Item 1 – Opening and Welcome.

In the absence of an elected chairperson, Fr Gerard chaired the meeting. He welcomed those present and thanked them for attending.

Agenda Item 2 – Apologies.

Carl Madsen.

Agenda Item 3 - Prayer.

Marian distributed a pamphlet entitled: "New Beginnings" and played the song "Born Anew". Members read paragraphs in turn and a period of silence followed.

Agenda Item 4 – Correspondence.

In: Nil.

Out: Fr Gerard produced a draft letter to the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce offering sanctuary to a refugee family being threatened with deportment to Nauru. This matter had been referred to the parish's Refugee Resettlement Committee for endorsement. Council endorsed the letter for dispatch.

Agenda Item 5 – Minutes.

Moved Fr Gerard, seconded Helen Kennedy that the minutes of the November 2015 meeting of the Council be accepted as a true record of that meeting. CARRIED.

6. Business.

2016

Election of Chair. This matter was postponed to a later meeting when newly recruited members will be present. Henri proposed the Council have a rotating Chair for the next two meetings. Gerard opined the ideal size for the PPC to be 6 to 8 persons. It should have a profile that parishioners recognise.

PPC Meeting Frequency. Gerard advised the constitution required the Council to meet 9 to 10 times a year. The matter was not decided (but see the minutes of the previous meeting, last paragraph).

Parish Pastoral Plan. Gerard advised that the Pastoral Care Group was up and running, it has held two meetings and discussed topics such as nursing support, death and funeral support and providing communion to housebound people. The group is also working on a charter. The Hospitality Group is also in operation; Henri opined it is producing good results.

Parish Meeting of All Groups; Marian advised a date has still to be chosen for this meeting. It was agreed to wait until after the Ministry Expo before setting on a date.

Children's Role in Liturgy – Developing a Policy. There was brief discussion on the establishment of a policy for children's involvement in liturgy. Carl Marsden and Judy Netting were acknowledged as important players in this activity.

Finance Council. Marian reported the Finance Council had met the previous week. A decision was taken not to hold a public meeting on the church's finances this year. Henri said that last year there had been a lot of negativity and proposed that this year a presentation be given after Mass when more people would be reached. There had been three responses to an invitation for persons to join the Finance Council, two will be appointed by the parish priest.

Parishes – Belconnen Region – Public Meeting. Marian reported that the Vicar General – Fr. Tony Percy– had asked the recently formed Regional Committee to come up with a date for a regional assembly to consult with parishioners. Kaleen and Evatt parishes had written to the Archbishop asking for the two parishes to be amalgamated; this request has been the driving force in the Archdiocese looking at the issues concerning parishes in the Belconnen region. Page and Aranda are in a similar situation where the two parishes are sharing resources. Marian will speak at all masses the weekend of 3-4 April advising parishioners of the open assembly on Tuesday 3 May. All the Belconnen parishes will deliver the same talk on that weekend.

National Gathering of MSC – Douglas Park, 10 to 12 June 2016. This gathering will include lay people. It is intended a Kippax contingent will be sent.

Additional Items.

Ministry Expo. The Expo will commence on the last week of February, 40 people are needed for church roles. There will be an information weekend - 27 to 28 February, a Discernment Evening - Thursday 3 March and Commitment Sunday – 5 March. Henri suggested the Expo include a talk on stewardship.

Church Alterations. Marian explained why the planned alterations to the church have been delayed. Work is now expected to start after Easter.

Closure and Next Meeting.

In closing the meeting Fr Gerard led members in the recital of the silver card text “The Word”, Jules Chevalier, 1900.

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled to be held on Thursday 10 March 2016 commencing at 7.30 PM.

Robert Breen
Minute Secretary

26 February 2016.