

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
HELD IN THE LIBRARY ON THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2016.**

Present: Fr Gerard McCormick, Marian England, Helen Kennedy,
Henri Clementine, Stephanie Stewart, Leilah Ayton, Timothy Gill,
Robert Breen (minute secretary).

Agenda Item 1 – Opening and Welcome.

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

Agenda Item 2 – Apologies. None.

Agenda Item 3 – Prayer.

Fr Gerard opened the meeting with the prayers on the printed sheet “Evening Prayer”.

Agenda Item 4 – Correspondence.

No correspondence was reported.

Agenda Item 5 – Minutes.

Moved Helen Kennedy, seconded Henri Clementine that the minutes of the February 2016 meeting of the Council be accepted as a true record of that meeting.
CARRIED.

5a, Business Arising from the Minutes.

Matters discussed under this item are recorded in the context of subsequent items.

Agenda item 6 – Reports.

Parishes – Belconnen Region – Public Meeting. Marian reported on the status of the discussions underway regarding the possible amalgamation of Belconnen parishes and the various combinations being considered. Whilst Aranda/ Page and Evatt/

Kaleen combinations are generally accepted and are informally progressing, there is some reluctance to a Charnwood/Kippax amalgamation. Marian reminded members of the meeting to be held at the St Francis Xavier College on the evening of 3 May. Tim entered the debate at this point and this being his first meeting, brought a new perspective to the discussion. He questioned the desirability of St Johns amalgamating with another parish as the unique, special and valued nature of the MSC connection might be diluted or lost. He advocated the establishment a parish position on the matter by the Council and this be made known to the Archbishop and the MSC Provincial. Helen supported this position and suggested a parish meeting be held before the 3 May meeting, to establish the parish stance regarding amalgamation. Tim agreed to facilitate such a meeting.

(Secretarial Note: It was subsequently determined that the meeting be held in the church on Thursday evening 28 April commencing at 7.30 PM.)

National Gathering of People connected with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart – Douglas Park, 10–12 June 2016. Marian explained this event will consider the carrying on of the MSC charism by lay people.

Agenda Item 7 – Business.

Election of Chair. This matter was deferred until the next meeting.

2016 Focus.

- Pastoral Care: Fr Gerard tabled a draft Charter – Parish Pastoral Care Team which Council briefly discussed and noted
- Hospitality. The need to have in place a hospitality plan was discussed and agreed. The matter was deferred for consideration at the Council's next meeting.

Parish Meeting of All Groups. Sabina Van Rooy is organizing a parish day of prayer for Saturday 14 May 2016, to mark the Year of Mercy. Marian tabled a brochure relating to the event.

Children's Role in Liturgy – Developing Policy. Discussion of this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

Other Matters.

Completion of the Church – Work on the Sanctuary. Marian reported on the status of the work on the church's sanctuary area stating that the builder has been unable to find a joiner to carry out the work but was now back getting quotes. Discussion ensued with Tim, who was new to the topic, opining that arrangements of the organ, keyboard and choir need to be revised. Fr Gerard said a meeting with the musicians to seek their input, was desirable.

The Church as a Sanctuary. Fr Gerard explained the registration of an offer of St Johns as a sanctuary for the Nauru refugees presently in Australia having medical attention. He stated that a number of churches and religious orders had also offered and the coordinating body had selected the Anglican Church of Ainslie and the Quakers of O'Connor as the sanctuaries if required. Non-sanctuary churches are asked to support the selected churches in the event of their "activation". Fr Gerard stated the need to inform the parish of this matter and Council agreed this be done at masses on the 23/24 April weekend. Council noted the need for the Refugee Resettlement Committee to be seen to be at arm's length from this activity to avoid souring its relationship with government departments. Timothy noted that apart from St Johns, the sanctuary action was all from protestant churches which he felt was disappointing. There was a general feeling amongst Council members that Fr Gerard should be congratulated on his initiative in offering St Johns as a sanctuary. Fr Gerard expressed the need to have a small group – two to three people – ready to take responsibility for coordinating St John's contribution to the sanctuaries should the need arise.

Closure and Next Meeting.

Fr Gerard closed the meeting at 9.23 PM with the recital of the silver card text "The Word", Jules Chevalier, 1900.

The **next meeting** of the Council is scheduled for **Thursday 12 May 2016 commencing at 7.30 PM.**

Robert Breen
Minute Secretary

24 April 2016.