

St John the Apostle Parish Pastoral Council | MINUTES



Meeting date: 14 July 2016
Meeting location: Parish Library

Time: 7:30pm

Chair Carl Madsen
Minutes Secretary Marian England

Members:
Leilah Ayton, Henri Clementine,
Marian England, Tim Gill, Helen Kennedy,
Carl Madsen, Gerard McCormick msc,
Stephanie Stewart, REC Rob Breen [minutes]

From the Twilight retreat.....

As the Parish Pastoral Council of St John's what does it mean for us as a group to "go and do likewise?" (Referring to Jesus' washing of the disciples feet)

- **To give what we have to give: our experience, our skills, our knowledge**

As one selected for leadership in the parish community of St John's what does it mean for me personally to "go and do likewise?"

Christ laid down his life for us – we are called to do the same for others. It's not always easy; it's definitely going beyond our comfort zone

1. OPENING AND WELCOME:

2. **APOLOGIES:** Leilah Ayton, Henri Clementine, Stephanie Stewart, Rob Breen.

3. **PRAYER:** Fr. Gerard led the prayer - Matthew 11:28-30

This was followed by a few minutes silence and personal sharing.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

In: A flyer from the Archdiocese regarding the Deanery Assembly on Mercy in Marriage & Family Life to be held on 12/13 August at St Clare's College.

Out: Nil

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

- 5a. Acceptance of the minutes
Minutes were proposed and accepted – Helen & Carl.

- 5b Business arising from minutes

i. Parish meeting of all groups

The Parish Pastoral Council is a representative group it has the interest of the whole parish at heart. However there are groups that represent other aspects of life in the parish and there is a benefit in all groups coming together from time to time to communicate what they are doing.

A general discussion centred on the purpose of an open meeting of all the groups in the parish and what the aim of this meeting would be. This led into a discussion on the merits of holding an annual assembly. It was agreed that the discussion would continue at the August meeting.

ii. Children's role in the Liturgy - Developing a policy

Gerard presented a draft policy [see Attachment A]. The Pastoral Council approved the policy. The next step in the process is developing procedures. This stage will be completed by the Liturgy Team.

A discussion then followed on point 8 of the policy and in particular the adolescence's of the parish. It was agreed that we should now look at developing a strategy for youth. To get the process started it was proposed that we hold a pizza evening inviting interested adults and youth to attend and have a conversation around the area of what do youth want. The date posited for this evening is Friday 2 September. We will advertise it in COMPACT.

6. BUSINESS:

MSC Lay Gathering – 10-12 June 2016 – Douglas Park

Helen and Marian attended this weekend and reported that there were approximately 80 participants from the various MSC ministries across Australia. The age diversity was great from a lady in her 90's to a six month old baby.

One of the aims of the gathering was to formulate a statement that will be presented at the Chapter in September this year. This statement will take two forms a written document and video comments recorded by the different groups at the gathering.

Helen will circulate the feedback from the weekend to members of the Council.

Parish Pastoral Plan – 2013-2016

Marian presented a document on the Parish Pastoral Plan that highlighted the

- Plan
- Strategies
- Existing Groups
- Parts of the plan have been implemented so far.

Gerard spoke about the need to develop small committee's for each quadrant of the plan so that each priority of the plan has an overseeing body.

- Building Community
- Education & Evangelisation
- Prayer and Worship
- Pastoral Care & Service.

Pastoral Care & Service is the 2016 focus of the plan and a committee for this pastoral plan priority was formed late in 2015. The committee is Manel Samarasinghe, Barbara Gardiner, Helen Kennedy, Br. John Walker msc, Fr. Gerard and Marian England.

This meeting agreed that the next priority that we would look at forming a committee for is *Building Community*. We will use COMPACT as the medium for asking for expressions of interest from parishioner who would like to be involved. There would also be a benefit in it being mentioned by Frs. Gerard and Paul at the end of mass.

Once we have expressions of interest we will organize a general meeting of all interested people.

Planned Giving – Stewardship

Marian presented a flyer that will be used in conjunction with the planned giving talk to the parish on the 5th Sunday of this month 30/31 July. John Drury will be presenting the talk. The completed flyer has been sent to members of the Finance Council for comment. One of the comments from this meeting was that the flyer contained too much information which could be confusing.

National Church Life Survey

Marian advised that all of the parishes in the Archdiocese are taking part in the National Church Life Survey this year. The cost of the survey will be borne by the Archdiocese. St John the Apostle's weekend for the survey is the 5-6 November. Marian will ask Patrick Corr who is a demographer to help facilitate the survey.

Meeting Closed 9:20pm

Nest Meeting Thursday 11 August 2016 - 7:30pm

Attachment A

Policy on Children in the Liturgy

St John the Apostle Parish, Kippax

Preamble

The purpose of this policy is to help identify the needs of children in the eucharistic assembly with the aim of helping them participate more fully in the eucharistic celebration. The starting point is recognition that children are already full members of the eucharistic assembly by virtue of their baptism whereby they become members of a priestly people. Any policy must therefore eschew any hint of condescension. Rather the opposite is true, that is, what children can teach us about the Kingdom of God: “unless you become like little children you will never enter the Kingdom of God” (Matthew 18:3). Children are in themselves a sacramental sign of Christ’s presence.

Recognition that children are on a journey. To speak of children in the liturgy does not mean that we address them as a static block. Our approach must be fluid and adaptable. At the same time we recognize that there are age differences: the church speaks of children of a “catechetical age”. Sacramental policy revolves around this description (e.g. RCIA) it also directs our approach to liturgical catechesis (e.g., DMC).

At St John’s we want children to experience a welcoming Christian community where Jesus is professed and encountered as the Risen Lord through the celebration of Word and Sacrament. We desire for children to participate fully in the liturgy at a level appropriate to their understanding and maturation.

Policy

1. Children learn by example. A policy directed at children in the liturgy must also be a policy directed at adults in the liturgy. The cultivation of an atmosphere of devote worship among all members of the eucharistic assembly has to be paramount. Our starting point is therefore the way in which the Eucharist is celebrated by the entire assembly. The example that we want to set before our children is a community that celebrates its liturgy with a sense of beauty and reverence that befits our worship of God, and at the same time exhibits a sense of community were all are welcome.
2. We wish to promote, encourage and develop strategies and practices that help children to understand and participate more fully in the Mass through such programs as “Catechises of the Good Shepherd”, regular celebrations of Children’s Liturgy of the Word, and by the children’s ministry and participation at the Sunday 10am Mass held on the second Sunday of the month. We acknowledge that, at times, provision needs to be made to accommodate those children with special needs to better access the mass.
3. We recognize and appreciate the importance of St John the Apostle Primary School and the Parish School of Religion in providing formal lessons and catechesis on the Mass. We also recognize and encourage the continual practice of class Masses at St John the Apostle Primary School by which the children became familiar with the structure of the Mass and its ritual elements.
4. We encourage children to learn and sing the parish music repertoire while at the same time to use music specially written for children when necessary.

5. We encourage children to exercise liturgical ministries such as altar servers, readers, choir members, and to provide assistance for them in their training and ongoing support and encouragement in their respective ministries.
6. Adults working, assisting in children's liturgy are required to meet the conditions stipulated within *The Working with Vulnerable People Act 2011*. As a regulated activity participants uphold the legal requirements pertaining to that status. Therefore, in accordance with this legislation all our permanent volunteers carry a current working with vulnerable people card, barring those who only engage in the activity less than 7 days in a 12 month period or are under the age of 16 years, as are exempt under the Act.
7. Children's liturgical ministry falls under the umbrella of the Liturgy Committee. A coordinator of children's liturgy needs to be appointed as a member of the Liturgy Committee.
8. We see this policy as helping children to move into adolescence. Therefore a separate policy on "Young People in the Liturgy" is an important follow up.