

MINUTES of the Joint Parish Pastoral Councils Meeting

held Thursday 10 April 2025

Meeting commenced: 7:05 pm

Present: Fr Tru, James Nield, Julie Lean, Maureen Burgess, Carl Madsen, Matthew Garton, Megan Smith, Michael Carberry, Peter Osborne, Pam Connor

Apologies: Jenny McGee, Jo Reid, Stephanie Stewart, Marian England, Margie Hourigan

1. Opening & Welcome – James Nield

Julie Lean advised that she would volunteer to take the minutes of this meeting in Jenny McGee's absence.

2. Prayer and reflection – taken from Matthew 25:34-40 - James Nield

(Volunteer for next meeting: Matthew Garton)

3. Acceptance of previous minutes – Accepted by Julie Lean, seconded by Carl Madsen

4. Agenda Items

Item 1: Finalising the PPC Guiding Document

- Fr Tru raised this agenda item, and it was agreed that:
 - the PPC Guiding Document will need to be re-circulated to the Joint PPC members (*Action no. 1, Responsible person: James Nield, Due date: Before next meeting 8 May 2025*).
 - It will also require reconsideration by the Joint PPC at a later meeting with a view to re-wording the document for joint parish usage and finalisation (*Action 2, Responsible person(s): Joint PPC members, Due date: Feedback to James Nield by the next meeting, 8 May 2025*).

Item 2: Engaging the parishioners for our combined parish name, vision and mission

- Fr Tru also raised this agenda item. He advised that he would like all the parishioners of the two parishes to be involved in this exercise. He further advised that he would like consideration of both the mission and the vision first, before work commences on the combined parish name as this is likely to inform the combined parish name. The Joint PPC discussed this in detail and agreed to:
 - form a Working Group to commence the process of merging the existing missions and visions of the 2 parishes and the Group will report back at the next meeting. This group will consist of James Nield as the lead, Fr Tru, Maureen Burgess, Megan Smith and Matthew Garton. (*Action no. 3, Responsible person: As advised above, Due date: Before next meeting 8 May 2025*).
- Some discussion also ensued on the selection of a joint parish name. Some suggestions included selecting a few names and then polling the parishioners during mass services. Fr Tru advised that he would like the combined parish name, vision and mission to be in place by 1 January 2026 (*Action no. 4*).

Item 3: Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope

- Pilgrimage
 - Matthew Garton suggested a pilgrim walk between the 2 churches (commencing and ending with prayer on both sides) through Umbagog District Park, could be an option. The PPC members thought it was a great idea and the ideal time to organise this would be during spring. Matthew will continue to put some ideas together with Fr Tru, perform risk assessments, and present his ideas at the next

- meeting (*Action no. 5*).
 - Carl Madsen suggested a Young Person's walking Pilgrimage from Daramalan College (or a closer location) to St. Christopher's Cathedral. He will continue to investigate options. Megan Smith will provide Carl with some youth pilgrimage packages that she has before the next meeting (*Action no. 6*).
- Social Action
 - Pam Connor suggested creating a Jubilee garden (at both parishes). She will explore options and report back to the Joint PPC with a time frame for first planting possibly during spring (*Action no. 7*).
- Celebration
 - Pam Connor suggested creating a combined parish picnic with invitations to parishioners of other combined parishes. Megan Smith advised that children's masses could be organised before the picnic. Both Pam and Megan to explore options on this item (*Action no. 8*).
- Prayer
 - Julie Lean suggested including special Jubilee prayer days into the parish bulletins e.g. Hope Shines in the Dark: Prayer for the longest night in the year (Saturday, 21 June). She will speak to Sharon about the inclusion in the bulletins closer to the date (*Action no. 9*).

Item 4: Social Justice Action in the Parishes

- Pam Connor advised that she would like to see a Social Justice Group for the multicultural community active in the parishes. Some members of the PPC advised that this group does exist at SJA. Pam will check with Marian England and Sharon Greaves on the group's organisers and approach them to discuss their future plans (*Action no. 10*).
- Peter Osborne advised that there could be opportunities for the parishes to be involved in the "Dawn Patrol" activity that Jenny McGee advised on at a previous meeting. Michael Carberry also advised that a member of the STA parish does the Kairos Prison Ministry outreach program at the Goulburn Correctional Centre and he is always looking for new members. These opportunities can be explored further once the Social Justice Group has been reviewed/revived.

Item 5: Youth Groups and youth ministry in the parishes

- Fr Tru advised that Fr Chung is working closely with the SJA youth and children as their chaplain. YCS is currently taking the liturgy and singing at the 5th Sunday of the month's masses. YCS is also greeting parishioners at the Sunday 6pm masses. And the SJA Children's choir is currently singing at the 3rd Sunday of the month's masses.
- Megan Smith suggested that the STA School children's choir could sing at a STA Sunday Children's mass. There are also 5 staff members who can play music instruments. She will explore this item and advise the PPC (*Action no. 11*).
- Fr Tru provided an update on the approved Youth minister for the combined parishes. He said that this is currently under review as the YCS is functioning well and the Youth minister's scope and age cohort have yet to be defined.
- The PPC members then raised the Young Adult category. [Carl Madsen]? suggested that Bernadette Johnson (a Young Adult group advocate) and Fr Chung could be invited to a PPC meeting in 3 months to discuss their ideas on serving this cohort (*Action no. 12*).

5. Action Items and Next Steps:

- During the meeting, Julie Lean advised the PPC of their roles and responsibilities from the discussion on the agenda from her minutes. But she also advised the PPC that she will set up a Rolling Action List for this meeting as a separate document, which can be carried forward and used as an agenda item in future meetings (*Action no. 13*).

6. Any Other Business:

- Michael Carberry provided an update on the Tiny Homes Project. Matthew Garton advised that Marymead had consulted the school community recently and they were supportive of the project.
- James Nield raised the idea of name tags for the PPC and PPC's pictures on the wall of the parishes. The PPC agreed to the name tags and James Nield will speak to the staff to request them to organise this (*Action no. 14*).

7. Summary and concluding prayer:

- The meeting concluded at 8:30 pm.