

ST MARY'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

10th March 2015

Opening

The March meeting of St Mary's Parish Pastoral Council for 2015 commenced at 7.38pm on Tuesday, 10th March 2015 in the Parish Centre Meeting Room.

1. Opening Prayer

Doug Black led the prayer focusing on "Gratitude".

2. Welcome

Doug welcomed Michael Delaney to the Parish and his first Parish Pastoral Council meeting.

3. Present

Doug Black (Chair), Fr Des, Clem Mulcahy, Denise Morgan, Anne Kotsiakos, Christine Sebire, Barbara Green, Jenny Mayes, Olivia Gregory, Kerry McLoughlan, Dave Callanan, John Moyle and Michael Delaney

4. Apologies

Brendan Atley.

5. Correspondence

- In – Nil
- Out – Nil

6. Reports

Pastoral Associates: Christine gave a verbal report. The Pastoral Associates have been quite busy with RCIA, "Come and See" and the liturgy committee including preparing for Easter. The Baptism preparation team are excited to welcome some new energetic and enthusiastic team members. Christine also advised that a new children's liturgy coordinator is expected to commence soon. The sacramental program will start next term.

The Lenten program has been running for the last few weeks with a mixed number of attendees and some mixed responses. There has been enough attendees to warrant continuing the program again next year. The penitential liturgy will be held on Thursday 26th March 2015 at 7:30pm.

St Joseph's College: Michael provided a verbal report advising that it has been a good start to the year with 891 students enrolled. The opening mass was well received and Friday masses at the school have commenced.

St Mary's School: No report submitted.

7. General Business

Minutes of Previous Meeting: 17th February 2015. Approved by Fr Des and Seconded by Clem Mulcahy.

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting:

- PPC members were asked to review the strategic plan prior to the PPC Formation Day in April.
- Fr Des will follow up on a youth representative for the PPC

PPC Formation Day (With Phil Billington): The PPC Formation Day will be held on Saturday 18th April 2015 from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The St Mary's Parish Strategic Plan will be one of the focus points on the day and PPC members were encouraged to review the plan prior to the formation day.

"Come and See" Update: The first "Come and See" event will be held this Sunday, 15th March 2015 at 5pm at St Mary's School auditorium. While promotion is continuing, the team reported that there has been a pleasing amount of interest from outside of the "Church" including a number of school children and their parents asking about it. The team will be catering for 200 participants.

The school community has also come on board and a number of staff have become involved. The team will be setting up the auditorium this Thursday between 3:00 and 4:00pm and have asked for volunteers to assist. The team also asked PPC Members to attend and take on the role of welcomers to engage with attendees, walk them to their seats and introduce them to others sitting in that area. The team has also asked for volunteers to assist in cleaning up after the event as well. It was agreed that parishioner's/volunteers would not wear their name badges at the event.

Attendees have been asked to bring their mobile phones with them and the team reminded everyone that the event is not a kids mass but rather is aimed at all ages. Dave Callanan suggested that a letterbox drop in the area be undertaken to advise the neighbours of the event and in particular the car parking and the "Come and See" team took this suggestion on board.

"menALIVE" Update: St Mary's Echuca will be hosting a menALIVE event on the weekend of 13-14 June 2015. While Echuca will be hosting the event and providing facilities and catering, the event will be facilitated by the menALIVE organisation. The Echuca menALIVE team are currently gathering resources in preparation for the event and recently met with one of the Victorian menALIVE team at a recent men's breakfast. The team are hoping to attract 60+ attendees to the event.

Social Justice Committee Update: The social justice committee have been promoting the Palm Sunday March for Refugees in Melbourne and continue to support Project Compassion during the Lenten season. The committee recently received a request from the Fr Chris Riley Organisation. A canoeist is travelling the length of the Murray River raising money for the Fr Chris Riley Charity and they have asked if someone would be available to transport the canoeist from Echuca to Tocumwal. Christine will seek more details about what is required and place a notice in the bulletin.

Finance Committee Update: The review of planned giving is almost due again. The work is about to start on the Priory verandahs. The tower on the Church has been leaking into the church; this has recently been investigated and repaired. The phones are up and running again after the water damage and the finance committee is continuing to pursue insurance options to pay for the cost of repairs. The committee are also looking at new plants and minor garden works for the front of the church yard. The review of renting the hall to the Southern 80 Shop is continuing and is not expected to be finalised for another few weeks.

Website: Nothing to report. Please send any contributions to Doug. Christine Sebire confirmed that the Baptism group is continuing to work on preparing documents for the website including an online registration form. It was suggested that content be developed for the website from the marriage preparation group. Christine Sebire asked if any PPC members knew of anyone who would be prepared to take photos of parish events especially the "Come and See" event and Easter celebrations. John Moyle said he would talk to Rhys Leslie.

Year of the Consecrated Celebrations: Fr Des suggested that we hold an event later in the year to link in to the Year of the Consecrated Celebrations. The event would invite Augustinians and Brigidines to come back and attend to acknowledge their time in Echuca and contributions to our parish. It was suggested that the event could be held on Sunday 25th October 2015 and be merged with the combined family groups function scheduled for that day. Fr Des will investigate options and follow it up with the combined family groups.

Other: John Moyle suggested that at the conclusion of the May meeting we have some nibbles and drinks to welcome the new PPC members.

8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

No agenda items were raised. Please forward any items for the next meeting to Denise by Thursday 9th April 2015.

Added Note: Doug will address the following issues at the next meeting:

- Parish Pastoral Council – purpose, vision
- Parish bus project

9. Prayer Leader

Anne Kotsiakos volunteered to be prayer leader for the next meeting.

10. Next Meeting

Tuesday 14th April 2015

Meeting closed at 8.58pm.

Minutes approved: Doug Black 21st March 2014