

ST MARY'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

10 September 2013

Opening

The September monthly meeting of St Mary's Parish Pastoral Council for 2013 commenced at 7.35 p.m. on Tuesday, 10 September 2013.

Present

Doug Black (Chair), Kate Fogarty, Terry McKitterick, Margaret Summers, Fr Des, Sally Murphy, Barbara Green, Brendan Atley, Denise Morgan and Julie Ritchie.

Apologies: Matt McLindon and Anne Kotsiakos.

Prayer

An audio scripture presentation was led by Kate Fogarty with a theme of daily prayer and reflection. Websites referred to: www.sacredspace.ie; and www.pray-as-you-go.org ; both of which provide daily reflections for pastoral and personal use.

Formation

This was provided by short discussion before and after the prayer.

Reports

There were no written reports submitted.

St Mary's Parish

St Joseph's College

Kate Fogarty reported building starts in December, 2013

St Mary's School. Brendan reported that two major staff movements will take place in 2014: Josephine Quinlan will take up a position at Lauriston College in Melbourne and Christine Sebire will be on 12 months leave.

Correspondence in:

- A letter with attachments re prayer to Mary was received from the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and circulated. No other formal correspondence was received.
- Emails from Council Members only.

Correspondence out:

- Letter to Campaspe Shire council re bus parking was tabled and 10 copies with petition were signed by Doug. Terry will deliver them to the Shire Offices on Wednesday. (done)

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Business arising from Minutes

- BEC's: The core group continues to meet. Some visitor groups have met (with Fr Des) and chosen families to be visited. They intend to meet again in a month to 6 weeks to debrief and reflect. Fr Des was impressed with their general enthusiasm.
- A commissioning Ceremony is planned for the people involved.
- Sacristy Facelift: Matt reported by email that plans have been finalised and costings received. The matter is now in the hands of the Finance Committee.
- The Social Justice Group is starting to consider Christmas planning: food hampers, giving tree, street swags (\$80 each) are under consideration.
- The Justice Statement will be launched on 12/13 October 2013 – Annual Bishops Statement.
- Parish Website: This is a work in progress. (Doug has since reported by email about developments in this area.)

General Business

- Sr Bernadine will be leaving Echuca shortly for Euroa. Both she and Cecilia will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their profession on 7 December 2013. An invitation will be sent to both to attend at AGM on 24 November 2013 to share their stories and to be thanked by the parish.
- **Strategic Plan.** Our efforts in relationship to Ecumenism were discussed early in the meeting.

It was felt that we had acted appropriately in most areas such as raising our profile in Echuca, increasing our participation in inter-denominational activities, but that more could be done. Advent is the next appropriate time.

Terry is to contact Marlene Muirhead of the Uniting Church to ask if we could offer help in their Steps program – and, if so, how. Perhaps Marlene could address a group (e.g., Social Justice Group) of us about what they do and need.

We do, however, have to be conscious of the ongoing needs of our own Parish group who work so hard to cater for funerals and the like. We need to advertise for more helpers.

Gatherings to promote ecumenism were suggested for Advent and Lent programs, including opportunities for other Church ministers to address our gatherings and tell their stories.

The section of the Strategic Plan to be reviewed next month will be **“Sustainability and Stewardship.”**

- **Name tags** need further thought and a “repository” found so they can be left in the church and collected at each Mass. Julie Ritchie has volunteered to provide details of a system she has seen in action. A new run of tags should be organised soon.
- **The proposed discussion/forum on clerical abuse** was again discussed.
Initial contact has been made with Fr Joe Taylor but he is currently overseas. Sr Angela Ryan CSB is the key contact. Terry will email Sr Cecilia to make this contact (this was done the next day)
- **Annual General Meeting** – the date is Sunday, 24 November 2013. Marg Summers and Julie Ritchie indicated that they will not re-nominate and Sally Murphy informed us that she will be overseas next year for an extended time so would also stand down from the Pastoral Council. At least 2 new members will be required. The AGM needs to be advertised in Bulletin and new members canvassed.
- **Men’s Harrierville weekend** is on the last weekend of November. (29,30 Nov and Dec 1) Matt and Doug will liaise on organisational issues. The retreat will be run by Fr Des and the local Parish Priest.
- **Catholic Social Teaching** – Kate will give a series of three lectures/discussions about this on 24 and 31 October and 7 November 2013. The topic will be “**What does the Bible say about refugees?**” - more publicity as we get closer.
- **Police Check and Working with Children Checks.** Terry will investigate.
- **Aged and forgotten people.** FR Des is concerned that there is an increasing number of people who can’t attend Mass because of age and infirmity. We need to know about these and provide help if we can. Advertise in Bulletin.
- **Hospital notifications.** We are not being notified of Catholics in hospital as we were in the past. Des will contact Michael Delahunty about this.

Prayer Leader for next Meeting:

Denise Morgan volunteered.

Next meeting:
October 8th 2013 at 7.30 pm.

Key Agenda Items

Strategic Plan first up – Sustainability and Stewardship

Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Minutes approved: Doug Black

13/9/2013