

ST MARY'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

8 October 2013

Opening

The October monthly meeting of St Mary's Parish Pastoral Council for 2013 commenced at 7.35 p.m. on Tuesday, 8 October 2013.

Present

Doug Black (Chair), Kate Fogarty, Terry McKitterick, Margaret Summers, Fr Des, Sally Murphy, , Denise Morgan, Matt McLindon and Julie Ritchie.

Apologies: Brendan Atley, Barbara Green and Anne Kotsiakos.

Prayer

Denise Morgan led a prayer with a theme of discipleship and stewardship also involving petitions of the faithful.

Formation

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

Reports

There were no written reports submitted.

St Mary's Parish

The exhibition "**I Made It Myself**" over the previous weekend was successful and reflected the hard work put in by the organisers. It was both a social and financial success.

Anne Kotsiakos and Christine Sebire will possibly job share in 2014 in the role of Parish Pastoral Assistant.

St Joseph's College

Kate Fogarty reported building tenders were due on 9 October and that staff recruitment for 2014 was going well.

The Graduation Mass will be on 21 November with Bishop Les celebrating.

St Mary's School. There was no report in Brendan's absence.

Correspondence in:

- Emails to and from Council Members only.

Correspondence out:

- Letter from Campaspe Shire council re bus parking notifying that the matter would be tabled at Council meeting on 19 November 2013.

- Discussion on correspondence was deferred to General Business.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Business arising from Minutes

- Badges: Julie Ritchie suggested that the badges could be pinned to the back wall without much trouble. She will investigate further and report back.
- BEC's: The next meeting of the core group is scheduled for 19 October. In the meantime, some visitors will have gone out to people and should be able to report soon. Fr Des remains impressed with their general enthusiasm. A commissioning Ceremony is planned for the people involved.
- Working With Children certificates were discussed and the Council resolved to make the obtaining of a certificate a mandatory prerequisite for parishioners visiting homes where there may be contact with children. The certificates are free. Terry will obtain forms for distribution
- Sacristy Facelift: The matter is now in the hands of the Finance Committee and Matt will report as soon as possible.
- The Social Justice Group proposes to distribute Christmas hampers and to purchase street swags (\$70 each) for distribution to the homeless.
- The Justice Statement will be launched on 12/13 October 2013 – Annual Bishops' Statement.
- Parish Website: This continues to be a work in progress, but great progress is being made.
- Notices in the Bulletin informing the aged and infirm that we can arrange for them to be driven to Mass will continue. This will be one focus of BEC's.

General Business

- Srs Cecilia and Bernadine will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their profession on 7 December 2013. Both have accepted an invitation to attend the PPC AGM on 24 November 2013 to share their stories and to be thanked by the parish. Kate suggested that instead of formal speeches we conduct a "q & a" session for parishioners to ask them about their lives.
- Doug and Matt, with Anne, will be the AGM preparation team (although Anne will be away for the actual meeting)
- Clem Mulcahy's intention to accept nomination for the PPC was welcomed. Sally is still to suggest a "youth" replacement.
- It was resolved to donate \$500 to the Salvation Army to help them after the fire which damaged their sheds last week. A special leaving collection will be taken up on Saturday/Sunday 12-13 October and any shortfall will be met from parish finances. Terry will speak at the 6 pm Mass and Kate at the 10 am Mass. Terry was to notify the Finance Committee by email (this was done later that evening and Brendan Hogan replied that he saw no objection).

- **Bus Parking over Church entrance:** Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 19 November 2013. The Council Meeting starts at 5 pm and petitions are dealt with early on in the agenda. We need to notify Council if we intend to have someone speak to the petition. Parishioners should be encouraged to attend at the Council meeting to show support. It was recommended that Sean Green be asked to speak on our behalf. (Later: Sean is unavailable that night as he has the annual cemetery Mass at 6 pm). Doug will be in New Zealand. Terry has a conflict of interest from work. So we need a volunteer to speak. **Glenn Roberts** was suggested. Who will contact Glenn?

- **Strategic Plan.** Our efforts in relation to Sustainability and Stewardship were discussed early in the meeting. A section of the Strategic Plan was annexed to the agenda and each item was discussed. Our goals were:

- to be an environmentally sustainable parish;
- to understand our role as custodians;
- to investigate our place in the cosmology story of creation.

It was thought that our liturgical symbols did attempt to reflect our place in the world: -fire, sand, water, hall displays, indigenous symbols.

Kate will investigate bringing "Earthsong" to the parish and promote the link between St Joseph's School and the parish.

The school has a Waste water and Energy audit in place and access to an online program to help in this. The school contact persons were named: Kirralie Westblade, Rhyce Leslie and Rob Morris. We need to contact them for further information and advice.

Sr Cecilia was suggested as a contact person for the Cosmology story. It was also suggested that this could be our Advent theme

- **The proposed discussion/forum on clerical abuse** was again discussed. Terry has received helpful information from Shepparton parish. Three dates, 2,3 & 5 December 2013 were mooted. Terry will contact Sr Angela Ryan through Sr Cecilia to see if any of these dates are available and, if so, will then make contact with local police, psychologist (via Olive Morgan), a possible local Victorian CASA representative etc., as possible speakers or contributors to the forum. The parish hall is the suggested venue.
- **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. Their next step is to email all possible participants. Fr Des and Fr Tony Shellew from Myrtleford will be sharing the direction of the spiritual content.
- **Catholic Social Teaching** – Kate confirmed that she 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?**” Publicity is needed.

Prayer Leader for next Meeting:

Fr Des volunteered.

No section of the Strategic Plan will be reviewed in November because of the impending AGM.

Next meeting:

12 November 2013 at 7.30 pm.

Key Agenda Items

AGM arrangements

Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Minutes approved: Doug Black

9/10/2013