

# ST MARY'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes

13 May 2014

### Opening

The May meeting of St Mary's Parish Pastoral Council for 2014 commenced at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 13 May 2014 at the Parish Centre.

### Present

Doug Black (Chair), Kate Fogarty, Terry McKiterick, Jenny Mayes, Denise Morgan, Barbara Green, Christine Sebire, Clem Mulcahy, Brendan Atley

**Apologies:** Fr Des, Matt McLindon, John Moyle and Anne Kotsiakos.

### Prayer and Formation

Doug Black led a Youtube presentation of the Creation Prayer followed by a film clip of a reunion between a scientist and a gorilla 5 years after the gorilla was released into the wild in Africa.

### Reports

#### Correspondence in:

- thank you card from Canon Glenis Traill.

#### Correspondence out:

- Emails to Councillors
- None

### St Mary's Parish

Christine Sebire reported:

- there had been a diocesan Pastoral Associates meeting in Kyabram on Monday, 12 May 2014, which followed the presentation by Fr Elio Capra. They met with Fr Brian Boyle, the new Episcopal Vicar for Sandhurst, to discuss support for Parish Associates and relevant matters such as responsibilities, skills and remuneration
- Steps in Faith program began 2 weeks ago. 40 children are involved, but only 18 are from Years 3/4 at St Mary's PS. Others are altar servers, 5 from St Joseph's College and the rest from other schools. The influence of families wanting to experience sacraments is apparent. The Sacramental Team has been hard at work. A PPC presence at Sacramental Nights would be appreciated as an expression of parish solidarity. Christine will email dates to PPC members.

- 12 baptisms of school age children will be celebrated in the near future. Some are from families where neither parent is Catholic but they don't want their children to be outsiders.
- BEC's: A couple of neighbourhood meetings have been held.
- The Stronger Rally last Friday night was a numerical success, except that only eight locals attended out of 150 attendees. Kate Fogarty was of the opinion that Fr Rob Galea's influence at St Joseph's College would greatly lift participation.
- There is a need for a group which caters for the older young adult, such as young teachers and the like. The suggestion is for the occasional spirituality reflection evening sponsored by the parish.
- The Deanery Meeting was held on 13 May 2014.
- The new Parish Office Administrator, Janis Ovens, has settled in well, meeting people and examining office procedures to maximise and streamline them. She reports that she has been cordially greeted by all visitors to the office.

### **St Joseph's College**

Kate Fogarty reported:

- progress on the additions to the College which should be completed by Term 4.
- There will be 6 streams in Year 7 in 2015 to avoid having to turn applicants away. This will lead to a school population of 923 in 2020.
- the Trade Training Centre in the Oak Building will be affected by the Commonwealth Budget. Money that was previously promised may not be available.
- Kildare Ministries are now the corporate body for all Brigidine schools. The trustees are still Brigidine Religious but it is anticipated that lay trustees will be appointed in the future.
- Kate herself is featured in a report "Australian church's quiet revolution 'had to happen' "in the latest edition of the National Catholic Reporter (USA). (<http://ncronline.org>)

### **St Mary's School.**

Brendan Atley reported that:

- enrolment trends over the last few years have been on the increase. There was an intake of 70 last year and if that rate continues then the school will have to put a strict enrolment policy in place.

- the final classroom is nearing completion, but future provision will be required to accommodate the demand. The school is already over its optimum size.
- the relocation of the three Echuca State Primary Schools to a nearby site will probably increase the pressure.
- Reviews are being conducted in the school this year.

## **Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Moved Terry McKiterick, Seconded Barbara Green.

## **Business arising from Minutes**

As reported in General Business

## **General Business**

### **Strategic Plan**

#### Sustainability and Stewardship

After discussion it was decided to make contact with Paul Dullard of the Catholic Education Office, Bendigo, to have a conversation about a sustainability audit for the parish.

Three steps would be involved:

1. Contact Paul Dullard (Kate will make this first contact) and arrange an evening to discuss the topic;
2. Obtain and read the relevant documents;
3. Involve the parish generally;
4. conduct an "Earthsong" themed afternoon

Christine will make the first approach to Paul Dullard.

The aim is to allow all St Mary's people to have a collective intention towards conservation and sustainability that also involves the two schools.

Advent 2014 was suggested as an appropriate time.

## **Social Justice**

Denise reported:

- the Social Justice Group will meet next week;
- they are reviewing their focus;
- this year they will concentrate on refugees and asylum seekers;
- they will also liaise with the St Vincent de Paul Society to assist with the homeless;
- street swags will be posted next week.

## **Website**

Clem congratulated all involved with the Parish Website as a valuable addition to our information base.

### **Adult Education**

- Sr Cecilia has offered to conduct an evening series on "Evangelii Gaudium".
- the parish has just received 8 copies of the document. See following:
- Pope Francis has issued his first Apostolic Exhortation called **Evangelii Gaudium**, translated into English as **The Joy of the Gospel**. The 224-page document outlines the Pope's vision for a missionary Church, whose "doors should always be open". During the meeting PPC members received a copy of an extract from the document highlighting the "open door" message. The Pope speaks on numerous themes, including evangelization, peace, homiletics (the art of preaching or writing sermons), social justice, the family, respect for creation, faith and politics, ecumenism, interreligious dialogue, and the role of women and of the laity in the Church.
- an E-conference is scheduled for 11 June, 2014.
- "Men Alive": Matt McLindon will be asked to facilitate a session in Echuca

### **Other**

- Trish Clifford. Barbara will contact Trish to discuss the PPC's wish to have a social function to recognise her input over many years.
- Parish Luncheon on Sunday, 22 June 2014 would be an appropriate venue to introduce the new Parish Office Administrator.
- Denise suggested that we investigate having an afternoon tea to acknowledge the word of volunteers in the parish and to name the work that they have done. It was discussed that this could be done in a formal way at the Parish Luncheon.
- CatholicCare funding has not yet been approved beyond 2014. Budget restraints may affect our CatholicCare office. Peter Richards is keen to see the Echuca office continue.

**Prayer** : Christine Sebire volunteered for the June meeting.

It is intended to use "Evangelii Gaudium" as the basis for each monthly prayer for the rest of 2014.

### **Next meeting:**

10 June 2014 at 7.30 pm.  
Meeting closed at 9.07 p.m.

Minutes approved: Doug Black

17th May 2014