

ST MARY'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

9 September 2014

Opening

The September meeting of St Mary's Parish Pastoral Council for 2014 commenced at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 9 September 2014 in the Parish Centre Meeting Room.

Present

Doug Black (Chair), Terry McKitterick, Clem Mulcahy, John Moyle, Denise Morgan, Anne Kotsiakos, Christine Sebire, Brendan Atley, Kate Fogarty and Matt McLindon.

Apologies: Fr Des, Jenny Mayes and Barbara Green.

Prayer and Formation

Denise led the prayer focusing on "being still with God" with a reflection from Scripture followed by individual prayer intercessions.

Reports:

Parish:

Anne gave a verbal report outlining the pastoral issues that she had faced since our last meeting and detailing some of the liturgical and other events and initiatives happening.

Christine submitted a written parish pastoral associate report which had already been circulated. She also spoke to the report and expressed concern at the insufficient response from Parish Pastoral Councillors in attending some Council sponsored functions. She also reminded us that the Social Justice Committee meeting will be next Tuesday, September 16 and will host a visiting deacon, Ralph Madigan who will reflect on indigenous matters in the Catholic Church and the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry. In conversation, Kate noted that St Joseph's College has the highest Koori population of any Catholic school in Victoria.

St Mary's PS.

Brendan Atley gave a verbal report. Staff had just completed a period of spiritual development. Planning for the 2015 school year had already commenced with new enrolments fortunately matching anticipated numbers. The school production commences next week and at some point during the production EVERY school student will have been on stage! To accommodate the large number of people wanting to attend the production an additional matinee performance on top of the already scheduled performances has needed to be introduced.

St Joseph's College

Kate Fogarty reported on:

(1) the Opening of the Oak Centre has been set for Monday December 15th at 7pm, which coincidentally, is the Awards Night.

(2) during the recent Staff Sabbatical Week this year a number of speakers have given presentations to the staff including a Spirituality Day hosted Fr Richard Leonard.

(3) The Principal appointment process is still underway. Kildare Education Ministries hope to announce the new Principal before the end of the Term.

In addition to previous informal and corresponded congratulations, Parish pastoral Council took the opportunity to personally congratulate Kate on her appointment as principal of Assumption College, Kilmore, commencing 2015.

Correspondence in:

- internal emails and reports.

Correspondence out:

- None

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Business arising from Minutes

- **BEC's** – Christine reported on this in her written report.
- **Social Justice Group** – as above
- **Men Alive retreat.** Matt is collecting names and fees for 4 & 5 October 2014 at Ballarat.
- **Pastoral Council Formation Day.** Now fixed for 23 October, 2014 and it is hoped that we can spend extended time on the "Rebuilding" initiative. Kate will communicate this to our facilitator Philomena Billington
- **Sacristy:** Works are complete and functioning.
- **RCIA.** Anne reported that the first enquiry meeting will be next Monday, 15 September, 2014.

General Business

Mass Times: Denise has received numerous replies and suggestions. Most favour no change. Council has no proposals to change Mass times, only to canvass opinions.

Other

"**Rebuilt**" is a resource that is valuable for us as part of investigating ways to make our parish better. Copies of "Rebuilt" and "Tools for Rebuilding" were tabled and there was vigorous discussion as to the value of these ideas for us. Our response was positive. Doug and Anne will circulate copies of relevant summaries and information and text from chapters particularly relevant to councillors for reading and reflection.

Copies of these books are available at: www.bookdepository.com for \$18 each. Postage is inclusive and delivery takes about 10 days. Clem commented that local

sources are out of stock. Electronic copies of the books can also be downloaded from sites such as Kindle versions from Amazon.

One of the positive initial suggestions as a starting point is to commence a regular (but not weekly) Sunday evening Mass aimed at those who do not or cannot usually attend Mass and for parishioners seeking a different experience. The Sunday evening Mass can be used as a basis to try alternative Music, Word and format. Equally important will be fellowship and welcoming both during and after the Mass. Fr Des is in favour of this initiative. Council has been asked to devote some time to prayer on this issue and to read and contemplate the Rebuilding material. The Parish will be consulted and hopefully others will contribute to the planning process. This will require a team of enthusiastic and committed parishioners if it is to succeed.

The initiative is not being planned to change the format of or threaten any of the existing Masses nor to undermine or detract from the ongoing hard work of the present Liturgy Committee in relation to existing Masses.

Prayer: Brendan volunteered for the October meeting

Next meeting:
14 October 2014

Meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Minutes approved: Doug Black 11 September 2014

NOTES

1. October is our penultimate meeting before the AGM in November.
2. Reports will need to be canvassed earlier rather than later.
3. Perhaps a recognition of Kate's contribution and a response from her, plus morning tea.
4. New members need to be approached. Suggestions welcomed.
5. Retiring members will be:
 - Kate Fogarty, but will be replaced by new St Josephs Principal;
 - Terry McKiterick - completed 6 years and not eligible for renomination;
 - Matt McLindon will complete 3 years but is eligible for renomination;
 - Doug Black is in his 4th year;