

MINUTES

St Mary's Parish Annual General Meeting

Date: 11.15am, 29 July 2018

Apologies: Anne Nightingale, Pat Quirke, Peter Bergin

Meeting Opened - with a prayer led by Rev. Fr. Philip Lakra and welcome to 30 people in attendance.

Minutes from the last AGM meeting were read and accepted.

Correspondence in: Nil

Correspondence out: Nil

Meeting Discussion Points

Parish Pastoral Council –chaired by Jesse Chittilapally

Jesse welcomed all particularly Fr Philip who is new to the Parish and Fr Ranjit who is to come in August. Jesse outlined that for personal reasons and the change of priests this year it has been challenging for the PPC to get things done. PPC are pleased with the formation of a parish youth wing, thanks to Joanna Travasso who is leading this with 9 members so far. Real need for future vibrancy of parish to grow this number.

The hall project in conjunction with Marist Primary is still being floated but at this stage not much to report. There is a need to press on with this.

Jesse acknowledged that looking forward the PPC needed to be more visible. He would encourage members to take turns at speaking after mass for a few minutes to give an overview of events and what the PPC are doing.

Thanks to Bridget Quirke and Linda Oliver for their service on the PPC. Elmira Cullen is to finish up at end of year and Jess will stand down as Chair also.

Joseph Moodoli asked what the role of the PPC was in relation to the parish priest. Jesse confirmed that the PPC role has changed slightly in accordance with Diocese recommendations in that the PPC are more a sounding board and support to the priest, and not a governing body as has been in the past. Fr Philip advised that although as parish priest he has final say he would not make any decisions without consulting the PPC. Linda Oliver commented that despite the changes of priest this year the parish continued to run as normal.

Three nominations received, however Hoani Smith has withdrawn his nomination. Tapinga Fahiua and Dave Wood therefore accepted as new PPC members.

Finance Report - Dianne McArdle

See attached Finance report.

Accounts for year to 31 December 2017 church financial year and six months to 30 June 2018 for point of comparison.

Collections are on track as normal. However our expenses are going up. So in the long term, the Parish needs to look at ways in which to raise the income. We all need to revisit personal giving.

Dianne also noted that we are expecting a large insurance invoice from the Diocese very soon which will have increased as expected. Also the Auckland City Council are reviewing the rating of all charities with a view to levying church offices and halls as a business. This will have a huge financial impact on many churches and we understand the Diocese will likely make a submission on the catholic churches in the Diocese once all have been assessed by the council.

Joseph noted cash collections are less however Dianne advised that many more pay by automatic payment, and so overall collections are similar to previous years. Dianne agreed in future we should disclose total monthly takings in newsletter instead of the cash received.

The new Charities Commission Act has made charities become more accountable. We have successfully completed our reporting obligations to the Diocese. This has been a big undertaking. The accounts are available for viewing on the Charities website.

Dianne confirmed that the parish have received a bequest of approximately \$437000 from a parishioner's estate. The funds plus interest earned are in a separate interest bearing Catholic Deposit Fund account. Cedric Menezes asked what the stipulation for the funds were and what would be done with the funds. Dianne confirmed the bequest was for the benefit of St Mary's Parish and buildings. Jesse advised that the PPC will discuss this taking into account the wishes of the people. As such an AGM was a good venue to voice thoughts and ideas re the use of the funds.

Honorine Franswah asked about the roof leak. Dianne confirmed that we had received advice from one contractor after several attempts to seal the leaks, that the roof iron is brittle and needed replacing. We are waiting on another opinion to ensure we get the right advice. Unfortunately this will not be resolved quickly.

Dianne also confirmed her roll in completing health and safety forms for the Diocese.

Thanked all those who help with maintaining property and gardens including Anne Nightingale (church), Keith Hyde, Kili Vaea (lawns), Ross Courtenay.

The office welcome any further queries on the accounts by parishioners may have.

Marist Primary School – Christine Allen, Deputy Principal Marist Primary School

Christine expressed her gratitude of the relationship between the parish and school. Confirmed that the school have classes attending mass on a regular basis and this hopefully will encourage mass attendance. Christine outlined the Marist Meal sharing initiative that the children's parents provided to help with families in need whether it be through the school or parish. They also support the foodbank regularly and are happy to respond to calls for help with anything, for example baby gear. Thanks also to Johanna, Megan, Dianne and Anne and Irene for their ongoing support of the school.

The new 12 classroom block is to be built starting at the end of the year. The current relocatables that are over 40 years old have asbestos and no insulation and will be removed to make way for the new block. The project is expected to take 12 to 18 months. This has been a long time coming and the school are very excited.

St. Vincent de Paul Conference Report - Cedric Menezes

See attached report.

Cedric offered his thanks to the parish as without its support SVDP wouldn't function and also expressed his thanks to the school who donate so much food for the foodbank.

Confirmed that SVDP also endeavor to meet people in need of pastoral support and this has expanded their role.

Cedric advised that they have fulfilled Charities Commission requirements in detailing the hours of volunteer time and number of food parcels and this actually highlighted the amount of good that SVDP do on behalf of the Catholic Church.

Jesse gave his thanks on behalf of St Mary's to Cedric and SVDP for all their good work.

St Vincent is grateful for all support from parishioners. Any parish members wanting to volunteer should get in contact through the Parish office.

Caring Committee Report - Dianne McArdle

See attached report

Dianne gave thanks to Christine Allen for school's support and SVDP for helping with initiatives, eg foster children support and the Christmas Food parcels.

Confirmed that the PPC are very supportive of Fit for Mission. The latest initiative was respite or emergency care for foster families. The parish have built a store of baby gear to supply respite caregivers and more helpers are required.

Youth Group – Joanna Travasso

See attached report.

The youth group has recently been formed and started with 5/6 members and they have increased to 9. A wish to grow this and particularly have Tongan and Samoan members join. They have represented the parish at youth events in Auckland, and have begun fundraising to support the group's initiatives.

Jess thanked Joanna for her efforts and is pleased to see an energetic youth presence in the parish.

General Business:

Cedric Menezes raised the issue of a shortage of Eucharistic Ministers and Ministers of the Word, particularly at 5.30pm mass. Noted that the parish appears to be growing but there are less people volunteering. Lovelin Franswah suggested that we use the recently update parish roll to tap into people using email and cell phone numbers. Joanna could contact the youth via mobile/shoulder tap.

The Sacraments- Honorine Franswah commented on behaviour of children in mass. Jesse confirmed that it is difficult when they are given a syllabus to complete in 8 lessons and the children are often not familiar with attending mass regularly. Invited any one to join him and other teachers to work with children and reduce class sizes. Jesse reminded us that the children were young and had already had an hour of lessons by the time they came to mass.

Working Bee this next Sunday 5th August. Inside and outside jobs to be done, so the working bee will go ahead irrespective of the weather.

Liturgy Committee – no report.

Closing Comment from Parish Priest - Fr Philip

Fr Philip confirmed he was enjoying his time at St Mary's and very happy with participation in mass. However vibrancy is needed not just at mass. Besides the mass, there is a need to promote more spiritual activities in the parish and occasional change to highlight special events.

Fr Philip expressed his grateful thanks to all the volunteers and office staff who assist in the running and success of the parish.

Next Meeting: July 2019

Meeting closed at 12.30pm with a prayer by Father Philip