

St Mary's Parish, Mt Albert
Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council

Date: Wednesday 1 July 2020
Location: Presbytery, 20 Kitenui Avenue, Mt Albert
Time: 7pm

Attendees: Dave Wood (Chair), Anna Jared (Secretary), Fr Philip Lakra, Fr Albertus Suprpto, Dianne McArdle, Clara Fernandes, Joanna Travasso, Lovlin Franswah, Paul Marshall, Sr Marie Therese, Lisa Day and Joe Brownfield

Apologies: Rick Mumford (Deputy Chair) and Philip Doyle

1. Welcome / prayer

The meeting opened at 7.00pm with a prayer led by Dianne.

2. Confirmation of previous minutes / matters arising

Matters arising:

- A Safeguarding Coordinator is required for the parish.
 - *Dianne advised that Kirstie McArdle, a parishioner who is a social worker has agreed to take on this responsibility. Dianne will get in touch with the Diocesan safeguarding coordinator, Lisa-May Gray to progress this.*

3. Correspondence in / out

On 9 June 2020, an email was received from the Auckland Diocese Pastoral Services team advising that a formation day for pastoral councils looking at their role and responsibilities will be held on Saturday 25 July from 10am to 12.30pm at the Pompallier Catholic Centre. RSVP is required by 20 July.

An email was received from Mayor Phil Goff on 15 June 2020 thanking the parish for its community efforts during the recent lockdown.

A request was received on 29 June from Carolynn Phillips of Marist Primary for permission to install a fence between the school front court and parish and to install a pool-style fence in the access way next to the church. The Ministry of Education has stipulated that the school property must be fully fenced to protect students. This will not incur a cost to the school or parish. PPC members did not identify any reason why we could not agree to this request. Dianne noted that it would be preferable for the parish to be able to continue accessing the school grounds when required.

An email was received from a parishioner on 30 June 2020 providing comment on a number of matters relating to the parish and raising some queries for the consideration of the PPC. Dave sent an interim response on 30 June, and it was agreed that he will contact the parishioner to discuss their concerns in more detail. One matter raised by the parishioner related to difficulties accessing the church when people park vehicles near the entrance. It was agreed that a message will be included in the bulletin reminding parishioners to refrain from parking in the driveway during Sunday masses.

The DPC newsletter for June has been received. This will be circulated with the meeting minutes. The parish's next report to the DPC is due for submission by 6 August 2020.

4. PPC planning

a. Parish AGM

Discussion took place regarding planning for the parish AGM. It was agreed to hold this on Sunday 23 August 2020.

b. Parish hall

Dave outlined that he is interested in arranging a small committee to investigate the feasibility of a hall for the use of the parish and school. A committee would comprise representatives of the parish and schools. The initial work of the committee would be to seek guidance from the Diocese. It would likely be a 5 to 10 year project.

c. Church maintenance

Carpeting and painting of the church interior is required. Dave proposed obtaining quotes for this work.

In the parish survey last year, some parishioners suggested making changes to the layout of the church interior. Dave has previously met with an architect, and will follow up with them regarding progress on concept drawings. Once these have been obtained, the next steps would be to assess the viability of making changes, and then consult with the Diocese and parishioners before any decision to proceed is made.

5. Fit for Mission / Caring Committee

Dianne reported that the Caring Committee has been busy. Activities in the last month have included:

- Youth in the parish continuing to phone older persons after lockdown,
- Visiting older people including one in hospital. Dianne noted that some older people lost confidence during lockdown and are feeling isolated, so ongoing support is needed for these people.
- Helping a disabled parishioner move house, and helping a person who had a fall.
- Making links with youth aid via the police, and helping families identified by the schools who are affected by the current economic situation.
- Feeding lots of people including providing meals for families with a family member in hospital. Donations of food from Everill Orr rest home and Fresh Collective were acknowledged. A promotion by Fresh Collective enabled nine parcels of food to be prepared which will feed 60 people.
- Distributing a lot of clothing and bedding to people in need. Toys were collected and distributed to families at the request of Plunket.
- Celebrated a parishioner's 90th birthday with a mass.

6. Update from Priests

Father Philip reported that their spiritual ministry which was interrupted during lockdown has now resumed. They have started distributing communion at Everill Orr and say mass monthly. Regular masses at Lexham Gardens and Unitec are yet to recommence. The priests will be distributing communion to house-bound persons. They have also been receiving requests for family visits and blessings. The distribution of Communion in one kind only will continue until the end of August.

Reconciliation was held for 30 children, with five priests assisting.

A monthly devotion for children and youth will be held in the parish, facilitated by the Divine Retreat Centre NZ.

Altar server training took place last weekend. However there continue to be insufficient numbers of eucharistic ministers and altar servers, and a shortage of organists particularly for the 10am mass. The Liturgy Committee discussed forming a choir or other music group. Diane noted that a teacher from the primary school has offered to provide music for one mass. Also, Marist College has expressed interest in providing readers, music, and eucharistic ministers for one mass per month.

Dave noted that our organ is a difficult instrument to play. It was suggested that acquiring a piano for the parish may mean more musicians are willing to participate.

7. Update from youth representative

A date for the youth mass has not yet been determined. Once access to new music has been obtained, the youth will commence practicing. Joe will review the microphones and other equipment in the church to determine if any changes are required.

The first physical youth group meeting since lockdown will be held this coming weekend. The youth mass will be promoted to attendees.

8. Update from Finance & Property Committee

In June expenses of \$5,733 and income of \$3,265 were recorded. A good volume of donations is being received electronically.

9. Update from Liturgy Committee

Lovlin reported that altar server training, and the commissioning of new eucharistic ministers and readers, took place last Sunday.

Some of the sacristans are unable to continue volunteering for this role, so the Liturgy Committee is seeking new volunteers. The procedures for sacristans to follow need to be documented.

On Saturday 18 July, the anointing mass will be held at 10am. Morning tea is to be provided by the PPC.

Dave noted that he attended the Liturgy Committee meeting this week and the new Committee appears to be tracking well. The Committee's next meeting will be on 3 August.

10. General business

As previously advised, Joe has resigned from the PPC to focus on leading the youth group, and this is his last PPC meeting. Dave acknowledged Joe's contribution to the PPC over the last two years.

Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation will be held on 5 and 6 September, and music needs to be organised for these services.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 August 2020.

12. Closing prayer

The meeting closed at 8.10pm with a prayer led by Joe.