

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

Date: Wednesday 7 October 2020

Location: Zoom meeting

Time: 7pm

Attendees: Dave Wood (Chair), Anna Jared (Secretary), Fr Philip Lakra, Dianne McArdle, Clara Fernandes, Joanna Travasso, Paul Marshall and Lovlin Franswah.

Apologies: Sr Marie Therese, Rick Mumford (Deputy Chair) and Lisa Day.

1. Welcome / prayer

The meeting opened at 7.10pm with a prayer led by Dave, noting that a quorum was not achieved.

2. Confirmation of previous minutes / matters arising

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

3. Correspondence in / out

Father Philip received two emails from an individual promoting the "Formed" website which provides Catholic content on a subscription basis. A substantially discounted subscription is being offered to a limited number of New Zealand parishes. The PPC previously considered this website with a view to purchasing a subscription for the parish and schools. ACTION – Anna to investigate the terms of the offer of a discounted subscription to the Formed website.

The parish received an email on 2 October 2020 from the Auckland Catholic Network requesting the distribution of flyers in relation to the upcoming referendum on the End of Life Choice Act. Dianne noted that the parish has already distributed 1,500 flyers within the community. It was agreed that a small number of additional flyers will be distributed. Dianne will seek volunteers to deliver these.

Paul joined the meeting at 7.20pm, enabling a quorum to be achieved.

4. PPC planning

a. Parish AGM

Dave noted that the reports from various groups within the parish, including the PPC, have been distributed via email. Dianne advised that positive feedback has been received from parishioners about how the information has been shared. Lovlin suggested printing the reports and distributing these within in the parish. Dianne confirmed that printed copies of the reports are available in the church.

Joanna joined the meeting at 7.30pm. Father Philip joined the meeting earlier but experienced issues with the zoom platform, and was able to connect fully at 7.30pm.

Discussion took place regarding whether a physical AGM should be scheduled for this year. In view of the COVID disruption and risks, the fact that the reports have

already been shared, and the parish focus on the upcoming Confirmation and First Eucharist ceremonies, it was agreed to hold an AGM around March or April 2021. This would also mean that the financial reports will be more current at the time of the AGM.

b. Parish hall

No action has been taken in relation to this initiative in the last month. It was noted that the Property Committee had considered obtaining quotes for painting and carpeting of the church interior, but this is currently on hold until there is more certainty (as discussed in the September 2020 PPC meeting).

Paul suggested holding a working bee, noting that COVID related disruption has meant that none have been held this year. All in attendance were supportive of this suggestion.

5. Safeguarding

Dianne advised that the parish safeguarding coordinator has commenced in the role and will be arranging training for those who require it, now that we are at alert level one.

The meeting adjourned at 7.35pm due to issues with the zoom platform, and recommenced at 7.45pm.

6. Fit for Mission / Caring Committee

Dianne reported that the Caring Committee has been busy preparing and delivering food parcels. Demand for food parcels is increasing by approximately 100 each month, and the parish is short on supplies, in part due to the school holidays meaning parishioners are away. Meals have been provided to three families with new babies.

The Caring Committee helped two elderly people move house, and was able to place their household appliances with others in need. The wood from two trees that were cut down on the church property was given to families for fuel. Support has continued to be provided to a person who suffered a stroke.

The parish's St Vincent de Paul chapter has closed. The collection boxes in the church are being relabelled to indicate funds collected will be used for the food bank. A separate bank account will be established to ensure the funds for this purpose are separated from the funds for general operation of the parish.

7. Update from Parish Priest

Father Philip reported that spiritual activities have been disrupted by the COVID lockdown. Masses recommenced at alert level two, and attendance was under 50 persons at each mass. Father has been distributing communion to the sick. The final St Vincent de Paul meeting was held.

Father Albertus left the parish on 30 September 2020, following his transfer to another parish. In response to a question from Dave, Father confirmed he is managing on his own. Father Brendan Ward (Rector of Holy Cross Seminary) is available to assist with masses if required.

8. Update from youth representative

Joanna reported that she is in the process of organising the next youth group meeting. The Liturgy conference that she was planning to attend has been transferred to an online format.

9. Update from Finance & Property Committee

In the last month, income of \$9,900 and expenses of \$7,400 were recorded. The parish is grateful to those who are continuing to make online donations. Overall, income for the financial year is down significantly but expenses are generally the same and include additional cleaning costs. The parish applied for and received the wage subsidy in the August lockdown which has assisted.

Two trees on the church property have been removed as they posed a safety hazard.

10. Update from Liturgy Committee

Lovlin reported that no meetings were held during lockdown, but the Committee met in early October. Preparations are underway to celebrate the feast of Christ the King on 29 November. The celebration will consist of a novena from 20 to 28 November. On Sunday 29 November there will be a procession with the Blessed Sacrament through the church and the Marist College carpark, with adoration of the blessed sacrament after the 10am mass

The Liturgy Committee has also discussed preparations for Advent. A Christmas novena is planned for 16 to 24 December during daily masses.

There are challenges with finding sufficient numbers of people to be on the rosters for reading, eucharistic ministers and altar servers. The Liturgy Committee is planning to invite more people to join the various ministries, and will also be advertising for a parishioner to run the RCIA programme.

Confirmation and First Eucharist will be held on 31 October and 1 November. This year the gathering and sharing of food after the ceremonies will be held outside in light of COVID risks. Dianne requested Liturgy Committee members to assist with these ceremonies. ACTION – Lovlin to follow up with the Liturgy Committee to provide assistance at the Confirmation and First Eucharist ceremonies.

11. General business

Dave noted that the PPC will need some new members, following the resignations of Philip Doyle and Joe Brownfield earlier this year. This will be discussed in more detail at next month's meeting.

12. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4 November 2020.

13. Closing prayer

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