

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

Date: Tuesday 8th August 2023

Location: Presbytery meeting room

Time: 7pm

Attendees: Fr Rob O'Brien, Dave Woods, Paul Marshall, Margaret Marshall, Phil Marshall, Amy Smith

Apologies: Nil received

1. Welcome/prayer:

The meeting started at 7:07pm with a prayer led by Father Rob

2. Previous minutes:

Approved by Father Rob and seconded by Dave

3. Correspondence Arising:

Lovlin Franswah asked for weekly income to be printed in the church bulletin. It was discussed that perhaps this could be placed in the parish bulletin on a quarterly basis, as the logistics of reporting weekly is an arduous task for the parish office administrators.

4. Chairperson Report:

- Liaising with layout of the church and the current change as a trial
- Query whether any feedback has been received either positive or negative.
- Paul's feedback was the light that streams through the windows in the morning onto the front pews causes sun strike - Dave responded that we need to price up some automated blinds.
- Wooden shelf attached to the wall at the back of the altar that housed altar implements is to be removed
- Notice boards inside the church down by the organ are to be removed and repositioned
- There was discussion regarding some parishioners being happy with the new church layout and that others are upset. It was noted that sustainability for the future and priests being happy to celebrate mass in a workable church layout is what we are working towards.
- Discussion took place regarding the old church layout not working with the building type and how it is not built for purpose.

5. Property Report: No current committee comes under Finance

- Look to price automated blinds to combat the blinding morning sunshine on parishioners
- Father mentioned that the lighting around the newly positioned altar is dim, query need for some extra lighting
- Kitchenette in presbytery - getting prices to undertake the project
- To price replacing rotten boards on Father Rob's verandah prior to the summer months

6. Finance Report:

- No report available

7. Caring Committee: (Email received from Dianne McArdle)

June Report:

- 32 food parcels were compiled and delivered - feeding 204 people
- Assisted an older adult to move house
- Pastoral care of visiting older adults in rest homes
- Hospital visits
- Meals provided to a family for someone post-operation
- Meals provided to a family with a newborn
- Meals and visits for a parishioner with a disability
- Housework for a family in the absence of a mother who is in hospital
- Knitting provided for prem babies

July Report:

- 39 food parcels were compiled and delivered - feeding 220 people
- Meals provided to a family whose mother is recovering from an accident
- Dog walking for a person recovering from an accident
- Supporting a family with funeral arrangements
- Gardening for a cancer patient
- Pastoral care of visiting older adults in rest homes
- Baby items collected to assist a family with a prem baby
- Providing clothing and household items to families in need

8. Update from Liturgy Committee:

- Looking to meet the 1st Tuesday of the month moving forward
- Have x2 new members Sheila White (Teacher at Marist School) and parishioner Tom Butchard

9. Father Rob's Update:

- Working through the changes to the physical church layout
- New carpet laying potentially the end of October
- Father Rob shared that he is away on holiday from 3rd September till 4th October
- Father Joy Thottankara will be our resident priest in Father Rob's absence, Monsignor Brendan will also be saying masses.
- Starting the week of the 9th October Father Rob will be attending the 5 yearly National Priest Conference in Rotorua this runs over 5 days Monday-Friday

10. Marist School Update: Shared by Amy Smith BOT Chairperson

- Christine Allen Deputy Principal is retiring at the end of the school year after 29 years of service to the Marist School community.
- The position has been advertised, with 5 applicants applying to date, all of which are external applicants, the 18th August is the closing date for applications. This is a special character role - with a Catholic ethos.
- Father Rob will be a part of the interview panel, the position will be announced to the successful applicant by the end of the term.
- The school has initiated a food bank drive within the school community to replenish stock in the St Mary's food bank
- No one has been identified yet to reinvigorate the Marist Meals 'Made with Love'
- May look to restart Sunday school masses, in which the children led readings and prayers of the faithful.

11. General Business:

- Still looking to appoint someone as the parish safeguarding officer
- Centenary is coming up on 8th September 2024 - query a working committee to be formed to make arrangements for this parish occasion. Father Rob mentioned that Megan may like to be involved.
- Parish feast day coming up on 8th September 2023 - arrangements to celebrate yet to be decided
- Jo Brownfield is keen to attend PPC meetings and talk about restarting the parish youth group, to provide an important enriching opportunity for our parish youth. He'll come and share his views and vision
- It was discussed with Phil (Liturgy Group - Chairperson) whether the PPC and liturgy committee should congregate for monthly meetings to share, inspire and understand what is happening within our parish. Phil was open to the idea and will feed back to his liturgy committee members for a response moving forward.

Closing prayer: Led by Fr Rob

Meeting closed: At 8:00 pm

Next meeting: Scheduled for Tuesday 12th September 2023

