



**Parish of St Columba and the Holy Souls, Leichhardt North**  
**Pastoral Council**

MINUTES of meeting on 1 March 2016 7:30 pm

Venue: St Columba's Parish Hall

**Meeting opened: 7:35 pm**

No	Item	Action to Do	By/When
1.	Opening Prayer – Read by Therese Briggs		
2.	<p>Present: Therese Briggs (chair), Margaret Perry, Peter Smith, Adrian Overs, Dan O'Brien, Amanda Sapienza, Mark Breen, Sue Draysey, Frances Stewart</p> <p>Guests: Carmel Reid, Dorcey Rutter, Chris Palamara, Nerrida DeBeck, Renata Popovic-Tomac, Myriam Bailey, David Bailey</p> <p>Apologies: Nil</p> <p>Brief introductions</p>		
3.	<p>Minutes from previous meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion to accept: Therese Briggs</li> <li>• Motion seconded: Margaret Perry</li> <li>• Motion carried</li> </ul>		
4.	<p>School report (including reconstruction) – Frances Stewart</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next week is Catholic Schools week, Open Day is Wednesday 9 March, 9-11am, school is open to the public, the day has been advertised in the Inner West Courier and by leaflet letterbox drops</li> </ul>		

<p>5.</p>	<p>St Vincent de Paul report – Mark Breen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busiest month since September 2014           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 13 calls for assistance</li> <li>○ 28 individuals assisted               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No hampers were able to be delivered due to the lack of space to store hampers</li> <li>▪ \$970 in supermarket cards provided</li> <li>▪ White goods supplied to some families</li> <li>▪ Total approximate value for goods provided: \$1820</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Hopefully this busy month (and January, the second busiest month since September 2014 with 11 visits) is not the beginning of an upward trend.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Several clients in these months were new.</li> <li>○ Some had been moved on from other accommodation, including from Millers Point.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Figures available for January 2016 show the conference is in deficit of \$1617.62, but against that figure the conference members and treasurer hold in excess of \$2800 in supermarket gift cards.</li> <li>• Written report on file with Secretary</li> </ul>		
<p>6.</p>	<p>Prayer and reflection – Peter Smith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on Genesis: God's covenant with Noah included all living things, not just a covenant between God and human beings</li> </ul>		
<p>7.</p>	<p>Building Stronger Parishes report – everyone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion around chapters 5 (parishes and participants) and 6 (research findings on parish vitality) of the Building Stronger Parishes Report           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The findings reflected the findings of our Listening Assembly, in that that primary reasons parishes do well involve matters of community and people:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ strong sense of belonging,</li> <li>▪ committed parishioners,</li> <li>▪ welcoming parish,</li> <li>▪ inclusive parish</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Once a year the Council needs to revisit the priorities that emerged from the Listening</li> </ul>		

	<p>Assembly (social, reaching out to the poor and vulnerable, communication, liturgy) to establish whether they remain priorities of parishioners and how well they are being provided for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is to be decided in coming months how the Report can be used in the short term, perhaps by retreat, liturgy surveys etc</li> </ul>		
8.	<p>Pastoral Council transition – Therese Briggs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of new Council; including election of office-bearers, amended guidelines, needs of new Council including retreat/formation session etc; to be carried over to April meeting.</li> <li>• Therese, Peter, Margaret and Amanda to meet to plan transition and do preliminary assessment of changes needed to the Council Guidelines</li> </ul>	<p>Put message in the bulletin seeking interest and informing parishioners that the new Council will be formed at the meeting on 5 April</p> <p>Meet regarding transition</p>	<p>Therese Briggs by weekend of 26/27 March</p> <p>Peter Smith, Therese Briggs, Margaret Perry, Amanda Sapienza by April meeting</p>
9.	<p>Other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish staff recruitment update – Peter Smith           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No applicants for the positions yet</li> <li>○ Still waiting for new offices to be finished, so that new staff can move straight in rather than relocate shortly after commencing employment</li> <li>○ The Parish Support Team at the Archdiocese think there will be people available within the next few weeks</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Holy Week liturgies – Amanda Sapienza           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Peter will run a reader/commentator training session on Wednesday 16 March 7:30pm</li> <li>○ Council members should encourage parishioners to add their names to the call for ministers for Holy Week liturgies (there will be a message in the bulletin this week)</li> <li>○ Mass of Reconciliation – Tuesday 22 March, 7pm</li> <li>○ This year there will be a run-through for Good Friday service: after Mass of Reconciliation</li> <li>○ Holy Thursday Mass: 7pm Thursday 24 March</li> <li>○ Stations of the Cross: 10am on Good Friday – a sub-committee is working out how best to do it and involve children so</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

	<p>that it does not become a performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This may include a choir led by Vasile Tiano</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Callan Park Refugee Centre – Peter Smith           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ At this stage this will be a day centre located in the buildings (inc. hall and offices) at the bottom of Wharf Rd.</li> <li>○ Peter has met with Jesuit Refugee Services to get a sense of what is needed.</li> <li>○ There will not be accommodation at this stage, rather connections to services that the refugees and asylum-seekers will need.</li> <li>○ It is intended that the centre will be for asylum-seekers as well as the refugees to be resettled from Syria.</li> <li>○ The Leichhardt Council needs to ratify the plan at the meeting on 8 March, but there is not likely to be much opposition.</li> <li>○ There is likely to be a launch of the centre in Refugee Week in May or June.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Statue of Jesus – Peter Smith           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Council discussed Peter's proposal for a statue of Jesus in a welcoming pose, with plaque "let the little children come to Me", interactive for children to climb on, in the space between the hall and the church.</li> <li>○ All of the issues regarding the statue that Council members had previously raised (such as installation cost and soft fall for children) were being dealt with in discussions with the artist (Linda Klarfeld, <a href="http://www.lindaklarfeld.com">www.lindaklarfeld.com</a>)</li> <li>○ Council agreed Peter to take it to Finance Committee</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Community garden – Peter Smith           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Peter suggested a community garden for the space in front of the hall.</li> <li>○ It will consist of raised garden beds and grow vegetables, herbs, etc</li> <li>○ He will build it, asking parishioners to help, people will be welcome to help maintain it, pick the herbs etc.</li> <li>○ Council agreed it is a good idea for Peter to carry forward and take to the parish.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• After-Mass coffee – Margaret Perry           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Peter has bought the coffee machine.</li> <li>○ After-Mass coffee will be held on the last</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Put proposal for statue to Finance Committee</p>	<p>Peter Smith by April meeting</p>
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St Columba's Pastoral Council  
Minutes of meeting 1 March 2016

	<p>weekend of each month, commencing Easter weekend.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Parishioners welcome to bring a plate to share if they wish.</li><li>○ Council contact for each Mass:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 5pm: Mark</li><li>▪ 8am: Margaret</li><li>▪ 10am: Dorcey</li></ul></li></ul>	<p>Put message in the bulletin advertising the morning teas</p>	<p>Margaret Perry by 17 March</p>
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**Meeting closed: 9:20 pm**  
**Next meeting: Tuesday 5 April 2016, 7:30 pm**  
**Venue: Parish Hall**