



**ST COLUMBA'S**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH • LEICHHARDT NORTH

## Pastoral Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tues 4 Apr 2017, 7.30 pm

**St Columba's meeting room**  
**Meeting opened: 7.30 pm**

Item	Action
<b>1. Opening prayer</b> Fr. Peter	-
<b>2. Attendance</b> <u>Present</u> Fr. Peter Smith, Mark Breen, John Collins, Sr Laureen Dixon, Susan Draysey, Chantal Nguyen (Secretary), Dan O'Brien, Adrian Overs (Chair), Renata Popovic-Tomac, Carmel Reid, Bernard Ryan, Amanda Sapienza.  <u>Apologies</u> None.	-
<b>3. Welcoming David's Place</b> (held Sun 26 Mar 2017) Very successful – David's Place guests appreciative of hospitality. Have been invited to their Sat 1pm Mass.	-
<b>4. Jesus statue and church garden</b> Fr Peter has obtained grasses and plants to finalise the gardens.	<b>Fr. Peter</b> to finalise gardens when he has a chance.

<p><b>3. Minutes from previous meeting</b>  Moved by: Carmel. Seconded: Sr. Laureen. Accepted.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p><b>5. Church sign</b>  Renata and Adrian have spoken with various signage contractors. Adrian has organised for some to send quotes to Marcia.</p> <p>Renata has spoken to Ecore in particular. They manufacture modular heavy-duty designs, used by councils and schools, with scope for a LCD screen. They have asked for drawings of draft sign designs. These, and site photographs, have been provided to them. Quotes and discussions regarding material options can now follow.</p>	<p><b>Adrian</b> to obtain from Marcia quotations received from other contractors, and forward to Renata.</p> <p><b>Renata</b> to continue discussions with Ecore.</p>
<p><b>6. School report</b> – Motion to table: Amanda. Seconded: John.</p> <p>Last Wednesday night our Year 3 students, plus parish children, received the Sacrament of reconciliation for the first time. Many thanks go to Sr. Laureen for her organisation of the preparation program and the liturgy on the night, and to Miss Sarah Gleeson our REC and Mrs Sue Draysey, our Family Educator who assisted Sr Laureen, and our parents who volunteered to lead the groups throughout the preparation. Finally, thank to Fr. Peter his wise and thoughtful words during the liturgy, and his support of the reconciliation program.</p> <p>We are currently in the middle of the enrolment process for Kindergarten 2018. Interviews are taking place with new families that wish to enrol at St. Columba's. Fr. Peter, Mrs Alicia McMahon (Assistant Principal) and myself have been meeting with the families and their children. This will continue into May. There has been a strong demand for places in Kindergarten in 2018.</p> <p>Due to the wet weather, our School Fair had to be postponed. The new date for the Fair is Saturday 6 May, starting earlier at 1pm as daylight savings has ended.</p> <p>During the wet weather we have been impacted by flooding in the school's shared space. Water has pooled up against the glass walls and come in at ground level. This has had a severe impact on the cork flooring in the area. Sydney Catholic Schools and the school builder are working on a solutions so that the water will be successfully drained away from the school buildings.</p>	
<p><b>7. St Vincent de Paul report</b> – Motion to table: Amanda. Seconded: John.</p> <p><u>Clients assisted</u>  During the month of March Vinnies conference members were attended to 7 standard calls for assistance. The low call rate continues for the moment, thankfully. There were 15 individuals assisted during these calls and we delivered five food hampers and issued \$380 worth of</p>	

supermarket food cards. Total approximate cost for goods provided during the month is \$1380.

Financial Position

As at the end of December figures show the Conference in deficit in the amount of just \$1378. This is more than offset by our holdings of supermarket gift cards of over \$3000. This position is maintained due to the generosity of parishioners at St Columbas.

La Montage Lunch

We have heard that La Montage is planning to provide their winter feast to Vinnies clients once again this year in July. We understand that they will approach the parish sometime in the not too distant future to seek the use of the hall once again. A date is not as yet set.

**8. Parish 2020**

Online survey officially closed last Friday. 25 paper surveys obtained. Statistical break down of the paper surveys can be obtained from Amanda.

Wording of the survey created some confusion in the answers (there were inconsistencies between different versions of the questions).

High rate of agreement that parish is welcoming and inclusive.

A wide variety of nearby parishes were nominated as parishes that we might be able to collaborate with – there was no trend in answers.

Re why people don't attend Church – answers included lack of relevance, busy lives, issues with the Catholic Church.

Re what the parish could do to engage more – most common answers were social media and an open day.

Re mission priorities – most common answer were social justice, liturgy, people with special needs, followed by evangelisation, youth, vocations – variety of answers, no one trend.

Amanda has sent in the paper surveys.

People have contacted Amanda asking if more detailed responses can be provided directly to the Parish 2020 organisers. They have replied they are very keen for this to happen.

People have been using it as a chance to give Amanda feedback of things they have been thinking of for a while – e.g. navigating the two collections.

**Amanda** to put a notice in the bulletin thanking people for filling out the surveys and informing them that further information, about the results and focus groups, will be provided.

**Amanda** to send Parish 2020 prayer to Marcia for inclusion in the Mass.

<p>Next stage is for the results to be analysed by the Parish 2020 organisers and sent back to the parish.</p> <p>Very little Parish 2020 information was given at the recent Deanery meeting – no answer has been provided about the utility or direction of the focus groups at this point.</p> <p>Shorter version of Parish 2020 prayer to be said at the end of the prayers of the faithful (now that the Lenten prayer will no longer be said). Wording changed to “We pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit as the future of our parishes is discerned through the Parish 2020 process.”</p>	
<p><b>9. Reaching out to others (ROTO)</b></p> <p><u>CARE program</u> The ROTO group has focused on elderly parishioners. Sue has consulted with parishioners. One has said there is a lot of activity already for visiting people in their homes, providing assistance etc. These activities can be formalised in a program to provide a structure for others to join in.</p> <p>Separate, but not necessarily mutually exclusive, to nursing home visits etc.</p> <p>A CARE register could be provided at the back of the Church that volunteers could sign up for. In the Sacristy there could be a more confidential book allowing people to nominate those who they think could benefit from the CARE program.</p> <p>Could use existing services – eg Council buses available for excursions etc. Sue has made phone calls to Council to coordinate this.</p> <p><u>Implementation of CARE program</u> Sue has created a poster explaining the program.</p> <p><u>Youth</u> Sue has contacted Notre Dame student services, who would support youth in the area being invited to participate in the CARE program.</p> <p>Sue has obtained the contact details of youth ministers in the ‘Feeder schools’ in the area, but is yet to contact them.</p> <p>Youth of the parish should be consulted as a preliminary to launching any activities – to make sure we have their input.</p>	<p><b>ROTO</b> group meeting next Mon 10 Apr – <b>Sue</b> to give them the Parish Council feedback.</p> <p><b>Sue</b> to change font of ‘a’ in CARE program flier.</p> <p><b>Chantal and Sue</b> to discuss / follow up on parish youth.</p>

<p><b>10. Facebook</b> Chantal to do the Facebook plug at Mass on 29 and 30 April – Fr Peter will be away.</p>	<p><b>Chantal</b> to email Fr Peter to confirm.</p>
<p><b>11. Parish sub-committee updates</b></p> <p><u>Social</u> Christmas in July – Gail has arranged to meet with chef who organised last year’s Christmas in July. 23 Jul nominated as date (no conflict with 16 Jul Vinnies in July date).</p>	<p>-</p>
<p><u>Reaching out to others</u> (See above).</p>	<p>-</p>
<p><u>Liturgy</u></p> <p><i>Stations of the Cross</i> Will not be occurring this Friday.</p>	
<p><i>Other business raised by John – Norton St Festa stand</i> At the Deacon’s conference in Tas, the idea of parishes having a presence at civil events was floated.</p> <p>St Columba’s could do this through the Norton St Festa in October (incidentally, this idea was suggested in the Parish 2020 survey). Could collaborate with St Fiacre’s and other Churches. Price of stand isn’t that much – although partnerships can reduce the costs. Could get CCI sponsorship. Might like to make a sample bag to hand out from the stand, from groups within the diocese e.g. CARITAS, CatholicCare, the school, John Jacobs CDs – and the groups can contribute to the stand costs.</p> <p>Could be a combined stand with the school. This could also reinforce the message that the school comes from the Parish.</p> <p>Stand would offer to the community a presence, engagement in conversation, things to give out, cards with Mass timetables etc, CARE program flier.</p>	<p><b>John</b> to make more queries with Council to obtain information, price, insurance requirements</p>
<p><u>Communications</u> Parish 2020 taken off the website, Facebook link updated.</p>	<p><b>Renata</b> to send David’s Place photos to Adrian for website.</p>

**Meeting closed 9.15pm**

**Next meeting: Tues 2 May 2017, 7.30 pm, St Columba’s meeting room**