



Parish of St Columba and the Holy Souls, Leichhardt North

Pastoral Council

**MINUTES for Meeting
Tues 7 Feb 2017, 7.30 pm**

St Columba's Parish Hall

Meeting opened: 7.31 pm

Item	Action
<p>1. Opening prayer Read by Fr. Peter</p>	-
<p>2. Attendance <u>Present</u> Fr. Peter, Amanda Sapienza (Chair), Mark Breen, John Collins, Laureen Dixon, Susan Draysey, Chantal Nguyen (Secretary), Adrian Overs, Renata Popovic-Tomac, Carmel Reid, Bernard Ryan</p> <p><u>Apologies</u> Dan O'Brien</p> <p><u>Welcome to new members</u> Bernard, Sr Laureen</p>	-
<p>3. Minutes from previous meeting <u>Motion to accept:</u> Adrian Overs (with amendment to Social committee item to include sub-heading so reference to after-Mass cuppas is clear)</p>	-

<p>Motion (with above amendment) seconded: Carmel Reid Motion (with above amendment) carried.</p>	
<p>4. Church sign Adrian and Renata have looked at signage options for the church. A variety of options are available (rigid panels, electronic media etc). Possibility of sharing signs with the school.</p>	<p>Renata to send Adrian the details of the most suitable signage providers. Adrian to organise signage quotes for the church.</p>
<p>5. Jesus statue and church garden Positive feedback about the statue – kids in particular like it.</p> <p>Fr. Peter has mostly finished the gardens. Automatic watering system to be finalised. Some planting to be done around the statue. A lot of people have said they'd like to share their plants for the garden – they're welcome to come round and put them in when Fr Peter is doing gardening (likely Sat 25 Feb). Church to provide other plants if needed.</p>	<p>Fr. Peter – blessing of statue at opening of school Mass on 17 Feb, and at every Mass on weekend of 25 / 26 Feb.</p> <p>Blessing is to occur at the conclusion of Mass, bringing the congregation outside before the Concluding Rite.</p> <p>Fr. Peter to finalise gardens.</p>
<p>6. School report – tabled by Bernard Ryan</p> <p>School resumed for students in Years 1 to 6 on Mon 30 Jan. Kindergarten students began Tues 31 Jan. We have welcomed 33 new students in Kindergarten, and 22 new families to the school community. New children were also enrolled in Years 2, 4 and 5.</p> <p>Sarah Gleeson (REC and Year 3), Michelle Crescini (Kindergarten) and myself, have been warmly welcomed into the community and we are settling into life at St. Columba's.</p> <p>Opening School Mass will be held on Fri 17 Feb 9.15am.</p> <p>Year 3 students will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Wed 29 Mar 7.00pm. Enrolment for this will happen at the 10.00am Mass on Sun 26 Feb.</p> <p>Currently we have no office holders for our Parents and Friends Association. Nominations for these positions will be re-advertised and elections will take at our first P&F meeting for the year, sometime in February.</p> <p>In the absence of a formal P&F executive committee, groups of parents are organising a Welcome Disco, which will be held on Fri 24 Feb from 5.30pm, and an Autumn Fair, which will run from 2.00pm till 7.00pm on Sat 25 Mar.</p>	

A special event for men and their children (10 years and older) is being held on Thur 16 Feb at 6.00pm. "Leap of Faith" is an evening with Sam Clear, an ex AFL player who travelled 15600 km on foot through Southern, Central and Northern America, across Siberia by train, and on foot again from Moscow to Spain. Special thanks go to Sue Draysey (Family Educator) and Family Educators in our surrounding school for jointly organising this special event.

Catholic Schools Week runs from 5 - 11 Mar. Our school 'Open Day' is on Thurs 9 Mar from 9.00am till 11.00am. We will again be looking to gain a strong enrolment for our Kindergarten class in 2018, and also looking to increase enrolments throughout our classes from Years 1 to 6.

Personally, thank you to Fr. Peter for his warm welcome back into the St. Columba's community, and his wish to work closely with the school in the faith formation of both our students and staff.

7. St Vincent de Paul report – tabled by Mark Breen

Christmas Hampers

Delivered 51 Christmas Hampers in December. 43 of these were active Vinnies clients while the remaining 8 were folk who manage day to day but whom we felt would find it a bit hard at Christmas, either for financial or social reasons. Value of goods contained in donations from parishioners would be in excess of \$3,000, approx. These hampers always bring joy to the recipients. One of the people was so touched that she asked the people who delivered the hamper to pose for a photo with the gifts. Thank you St Columba's.

Christmas Appeal

The Christmas Appeal this year was a great success receiving donations totalling \$5,132.

Clients assisted

During the months of December and January ovember Vinnies conference members responded to just 9 standard calls for assistance. This low number reflects to a degree the effect of the Christmas Hamper program. There were 26 individuals assisted during these calls, nine food hampers delivered, and \$570 worth of supermarket food cards issued. Total approximate cost for goods provided during the months is \$1200.

Financial Position As at the end of December Figures show the Conference in deficit to the tune of \$2,214. This is more than offset by the \$3,187 of the Christmas Appeal amount which is not as yet (31 Dec) reflected in those figures.

Toys from Noah's Ark Pre-school

Surplus donated for the Christmas hampers will be sent to Vinnes for charitable purposes.

8. Parish 2020 and Council Direction in 2017

- Church has received material about the survey which is the main focus of Phase 1 of the Parish 2020 consultation
- Requirement for Parish 2020 coordinator
- Survey asks parishioners a variety of questions about their demographic, engagement with their parish etc.

Broad voice needed

- Need as many parishioners as possible to fill out the survey
- Can do an event and/or focus groups and/or individual surveys
- Can send it out through school, and provide extra copies to parishioners, to reach those not attending Mass or not active in a parish

Parish Coordinator and Facilitators Seminars

- Doesn't need to be someone from the Council
- Useful to send a Parish Council Member, a staff member, and a parishioner, member of the finance committee to the forthcoming Facilitators Seminars
- Person will need to advertise the consultation, conduct consultation with the survey, organise and lead the consultation, work with parish priest – before 31 March 2017
- Results of consultation will be provided online, and then Phase 2 – deanery working group consultation, between May and July, more info available shortly

Amanda to be Parish 2020 Coordinator.

Adrian to act as Council Chair and **John** to fill Amanda's place on the Liturgy Committee while she acts as Parish Coordinator.

Amanda, one staff member, and one parishioner (TBC by Fr. Peter, Sr Laureen and John) to attend Seminar A of the Facilitators Seminars (Polding Centre, Wed 15 Feb 2017, 5-6.30pm).

9. Welcoming David's Place

- BBQ with David's Place for 26 Mar 2017 – Fr Peter has emailed David's Place this nominated date
- Details to be finalised at next Council meeting 7 Mar

-

<p>10. Parish sub-committee updates</p> <p><u>Social</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning tea at the welcome for Kindy very successful • 10am Mass cuppa requires a coordinator • Next one is 26 Mar <p>Morning tea to be held for parents after opening school mass on 17 Feb – will be organised by school</p>	<p>Renata to help out at the 10am Mass cuppa.</p>
<p><u>Reaching out to others</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility of nursing home visits with a view to including parents and maybe children from the school • This is to respond to the Bishop’s statement on aging 	<p>-</p>
<p><u>Liturgy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School could change class / year group Mass to a whole school night invitation to Saturday Vigil Mass, followed by a social activity afterwards (eg BBQ, AMF bowling etc). This would encourage “faith and family” • Church happy to provide pizza and wine afterwards • Parent involvement for the organising would be encouraged, kids to be involved in the Mass • Organisation to start towards the end of this term <p>Christmas liturgies and Mass to welcome Kindy were very successful.</p>	<p>Bernard to email Fr. Peter and Mark (for liturgy) once a date has been set for the school night invitation to Mass</p>
<p><u>Communications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adrian has made updates to the website • Church to try having a Facebook group – would be publicised at Mass on the weekend 	<p>Adrian to email Chantal logos to start the Facebook group.</p> <p>Chantal to create a private version of the Facebook group, to be approved by the Council at next meeting before going live.</p> <p>Adrian to correct spelling of Renata’s surname on the church website.</p>

11. Other business

Noise levels before and after church:

The Council received an email from a parishioner concerned about the level of noise in the church before and after Mass. Council discussed balancing time for quiet prayer with the church being a gathering space before Mass where community is encouraged and the need for pre-Mass organisation to occur. Fr Peter said that parishioners who are concerned about the level of noise can see him so that he explain the focus on gathering and community.

Meeting closed 9.35pm

Next meeting: Tues 7 Mar 2017, 7.30 pm

St Columba's Parish Hall meeting room