

**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, OATLEY  
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2012**

**PRESENT:** Father John Doherty, Susan Canham (secretary), Saskia West, Michael Cummins, Elise Jackson

**1. Prayer**

Fr John opened the meeting with a prayer at 7.38pm.

**2. Welcome**

Fr John welcomed those attending.

**3. Apologies**

Glenn McLachlan, Bernice McIntyre, Catherine Coman, Phillip Merrick and Maureen Horne.

**4. Minutes of meeting 18 October 2011**

There was an amendment to item 7(e). Mike Cummins advised that it should have read *The parish pays the school building loan but is reimbursed by the school*. After this amendment was made the minutes were accepted as correct by Saskia West and seconded by Elise Jackson.

**5. Matters arising from the minutes**

Fr John spoke of the parish meeting held on Sunday, 11 December 2011 that was convened in light of the Parish Council discussion.

**6. Correspondence and documents**

- a. A summary Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2012 was tabled and Michael Cummins spoke to this report. The parish is in a similar position as last year with receipts just meeting expenditure.
- b. Fr John tabled the Annual Report for the Oatley branch of the Catholic Women's League signed by Mrs Jill Windred as President. The report included a financial statement for the period 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012. The report details the very wide-ranging activities of the CWL in many local and overseas projects and charities. Fr John noted the strong social justice dimension of the work.

**7. Committee Reports**

- a. **Sacraments and ongoing education**
  - The Reconciliation started last Sunday and will continue for four weeks. This year Confirmation involved two sessions, one following the other, which meant that more people could attend.
  - For First Holy Communion next year Fr John has had discussions with Maureen Horne about the possibility of changing the present system of having candidates receive first Holy Communion at Saturday night and Sunday Masses over several weeks to having two consecutive Masses on one Sunday afternoon.
- b. **Marriage and family life programs**

There was discussion that a Parish BBQ be held for the whole parish on the school premises. The time for this gathering was discussed and it was thought that after the 5pm Mass on a Saturday evening in February 2013 could be a good time. This will have to be publicised to include the whole parish. Saskia West and Philip Merrick to take this forward.
- c. **Social justice and outreach program**

Fr John again pointed out that within the parish we do have groups such as the Catholic Women's League and St Vincent de Paul Society that perform social justice and outreach works both locally and overseas.
- d. **St Joseph School**

Following a suggestion by the CEO, and after a consultation which included Fr John, the parish primary school now includes “Catholic” in its name.

## **8. General Business**

### **a. New Chairperson**

Fr John said that there have been some attempts at getting a suitable chairperson and the search will continue.

### **b. Structure of Parish Council, formalising method of electing members and term of office**

This matter is linked to the search for a new Chair.

### **c. Naming of Catholic schools**

See above point 7 (d)

### **d. Youth Ministry proposals**

Kristina Shad has written to Fr John offering to run a youth program. To date, Fr John has been waiting to bring the general issue of youth ministry to the parish council before talking in detail to Kristina or anyone else. Fr John is aware that parents have been discussing this between themselves and with members of the PPC.

Elise spoke about the youth program that she and David Chapman have run for the last five years or so. Necessarily, both have had to move on and David now lives in the USA, but Elise would be happy to advise about setting up something new.

Their work had been aimed at different age groups and had also included involvement in Confirmation preparation.

Elise advised that she could make available the lessons – including stories and games – that she and David have already used here. These are suitable for primary school age students.

There was a discussion about various possible forms of youth ministry. This included the possibility of employing a part time youth minister, perhaps for two days a week. One advantage of this is that the youth minister could help the parish comply with child-protection and other legal requirements. The youth minister could also link with Archdiocesan initiatives.

A possible source for a youth minister would be Notre Dame or another Catholic University. Someone committed to the Catholic faith and studying theology might welcome the possibility of paid part-time work. CCER could advise about suitable remuneration and contracts.

The general consensus was that Fr John should investigate the possibility of appointing a part-time youth minister to start in 2013 who would then set about devising a suitable program after liaising with the Archdiocese, the parents, Kristina Shad and other interested parties.

### **e. Sanctuary and Church Renovation**

Since the last PPC meeting and the parish meeting of 11 December 2011, Fr John has obtained two sets of costing of the concepts prepared by the architect for both the Church and the proposed parish office in the presbytery.

In recent weeks, however, a benefactor has approached Fr John offering to do the work in the Church at no cost to the parish. Fr John is in the process of following this up.

## **9. The meeting closed at 8.48 pm with a prayer.**