

St Joseph's Catholic Church, Oatley Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 31 March 2010

PRESENT: Father John Doherty, Danny Clark (chair), Catherine Coman, Saskia West, Michael Cummins, Bernice McIntyre, Philip Merrick Maureen Horne, Amanda Shad, and Elise Jackson.

1. Prayer: the meeting commenced at 7.30 with a prayer
2. Welcome: Fr John welcomed those attending including Bernice McIntyre who is replacing Maureen Owens
3. Apologies: Susan Canham, Glenn McLachlan
4. Reflection on Sydney Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan. Priority 4: Marriage and Family Life. Fr John spoke to some aspects of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan which had particular relevance for parish life, including being aware of people with disabilities and how to include them, and marriage preparation
5. Minutes of previous meeting were accepted
6. Matters arising from minutes
7. Correspondence and documents
 - a. Email from Glenn McLachlan regarding O H & S representative. Has accepted the invitation of Anthony Morris to oversee parish compliance with OH&S matters. Anthony is a leading industry expert on work place safety.
 - b. Mrs Coman reported on the recent listening assemblies arranged by the CEO for parish priests and executive members of the school and tabled a copy of the report.
8. Committee reports
 - a. Sacraments and ongoing education

Maureen Horne reported on the first reconciliation program which has recently finished with the celebration of the sacrament. Fr John spoke about the candidate for Christian Initiation on Holy Saturday Night, Grace Campbell.
 - b. Marriage and family life programs

Philip Merrick spoke of plans to have a parish BBQ later in the year, depending on the completion of the building project.

In regard to marriage preparation, Fr John spoke of the marriage preparation programs running in the Archdiocese, mostly through

CatholicCare. Would it be possible to run a program in Oatley?

c. Social justice and outreach programs

Bernice McIntyre has been speaking with Glenn McLachlan about the parish being involved in a twinning project. The Oatley St V de P Conference already has a twinning relationship with three parishes in India, and the parish could be linked to this project. It would be good to encourage young people to engage in the work of the St V de P Conference.

d. Parish youth programs

Elise Jackson reported: the young adults group is going well with between 10 and 25 people attending, mostly from other parishes. The young teen (yr 5-8) program is running well. The content of the program is doctrinal, from the lives of Jesus and Mary through the mysteries of the rosary and the lives of the saints. At various times Dominicans and Franciscans have visited. The next program will focus on the Old Testament tracing God's plan of salvation from Adam to Christ. There is an Archdiocesan program of preparation for the next WYD (Madrid 2011) which the parish could subscribe to and support. Elise will be away for three months and David and Peter will run the programs.

9. Financial Report for year ended 30 December 2009.

Michael Cummins provided a verbal briefing on the parish Profit & Loss Account highlighting key income and expenditure items. He advised that a shortened more "user friendly" version of the account was being developed with the Parish Secretary which could be tabled at future Parish Council meetings. He tabled a copy of the parish Balance Sheet as at 31/12/ 09 which is attached.

10. General Business

a. The need to have Parish Council Guidelines was discussed. Michael Cummins offered to look at this with Danny

b. Survey Forms

The Parish survey questions have been finalised

c. Sanctuary and Church Upgrade Project

Fr John reported that there has been no progress since the last rather informal meeting. Perhaps the way to advance the project would be to have a more formal parish meeting to present the proposals in detail and to allow for verbal and written responses.

d. O H & S Representative.

As reported above, Anthony Morris has agreed to do this.

e. Possible appointment of Parish Vocation Officer

f. Possible commencement of Bible Study Group (Little Rock). A recent bulletin notice eliciting expressions of interest received some positive response. One parishioner had offered to run this group.

11. Close of meeting: the meeting finished at 8.30pm with a prayer.

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Rev John Doherty
Parish Priest