

# DRAFT

## Minutes of the St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7pm in St Peter & Paul's Church Hall

**Present:** Fr Peter, Fr Doug, Robert McClean (Acting Chair), Marita Basabas, Graham Cooper, Eric De Souza, Oliver Hartwich, Shirley O'Brien, Mark Westerbeke and Deborah Lim (Secretary).

**St Andrew's Delegation** – Anne Marie Bush, Marushka Caldeiro, Denzil D'Mello, Anna Mika-Hunt, Jimmy Millar, Marie Paurini, Giovana Salvano

**Apologies:** Tony de Joux, Eustie Kamath

Opening prayer was led by Fr Doug.

Motion was made by Robert, and seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> November. Motion carried, with Eric's name, which was erroneously omitted, to be included in those present. Minutes are now to be loaded onto Parish website.

### **Pastoral Council Retreat**

This will likely be held on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> February. Venue to be confirmed, but likely to be local and possibly at someone's residence. Will also look at having a facilitator for the day.

### **Post Synod Review**

The whole Parish and PPC need to take into account the Synod outcomes as they move forward with action plans next year.

*Meeting continued with introductions by all.*

### **St Andrew's Church Discussion**

*Comments made by each person are recorded below:*

Robert

- PPC are in an advisory role; Parish Priest and Finance Committee have primary role with respect to buildings.

Marushka

- Difficult situation; not clear what roles are played by whom and who makes decisions.
- No provision made for St Andrew's parishioners to understand what the issue was in closing Church.
- Confused about how Church was closed for Health & Safety reasons and this has led to possibility of selling Church; Expo is more about the future and not related to Health & Safety.
- The elderly, aged between 70 to 90, are the ones mostly affected.
- Cardinal has also echoed their view that there is 1 Parish, but 3 communities.
- Moving forward, we need to develop a Parish that is transparent.

Giovanna

- Older parishioners have been disadvantaged, as they cannot walk to Johnsonville and car parking around St Peter & Paul's is an issue.

Anna

- Youth in Newlands are at a disadvantage. Lots of Catholic students in Newlands College and surrounding schools who used to have St Andrew's as a religious focal point now have nowhere to go.
- St Andrew's parishioners are hurting. Need to regroup first then have a discussion about the future.

Mark

- Sad situation. Letters have been sent to Pope, Cardinal, Nuncio. People are angry and contributions have stopped.
- Closing the Church was an overreaction and Church should be reopened immediately as there is no Health and Safety risk.

Marie

- Struggling spiritually.
- Church should be reopened immediately as there is no Health and Safety risk.

Anne Marie

- Is there an authorised Health & Safety officer in the Parish who has deemed Church a risk?
- Presented timeline with excerpts from previous St Andrew's PPC and Finance Committee minutes covering roof and Health & Safety issues.

Shirley

- Was present at Church the night before it was closed.
- Expressed shock at leaks and took photos before reporting the situation.

Oliver

- Understands how people feel.
- No conspiracy involved as everyone is just trying to make the right decision.
- Parish Priest ultimately bears any liability and would not have made decisions lightly.
- Not the PPC's role to make decisions as it does not have the financial means.

Eric

- Health & Safety Legislation is key issue. We need to work together to find a solution.

Marita

- We need to be practical, not just make emotional decisions.

Robert

- Amalgamation was a traumatic process. Parish merged administratively but not on a people-level.
- We share challenges as a whole Parish and should fundraise together.

Fr Doug

- Understands how people are feeling.
- Ultimately there are 3 different communities in the Parish.
- Not just about moving the pews, there's rain water in the toilets.

Fr Peter

- Aware of all that has happened and had met with Newlands roof committee several times.
- Absolves PPC of all responsibility for the Church closure. It was his decision, which was referred to his superior. Expresses regret that people at Newlands have experienced grief and sadness.
- We now need to look forward and no immediate decision will be made until further investigation and discussion is undertaken.
- If current expo process favours fixing the roof, then we can begin process of fundraising levy-free.
- Will have a follow-up meeting with Newlands community mid/late January.

*Below noted from 2<sup>nd</sup> round of comments:*

Mark

- Cardinal wants closure of Church to be revisited. This should be done now as there is no Health & Safety issue.

Denzil

- Has been a long ongoing issue which was discussed continuously but no solution ever found.
- How long before any action is taken? It has so far taken 6 months for the meeting to take place.
- All previous fundraising requests have been turned down.

Marushka

- Presented and tabled a report from Site Safe NZ which states that there are no Health and Safety issues, and black mould will not grow. If roof does leak, this risk can be mitigated by having a team who report to Fr Peter on a monthly basis. We also should have a hazard register.

Anne Marie

- Requests that she be provided with a breakdown of all financial expenses for the Parish.

Fr Peter

- Moving forward, Pastoral Care of people is key.
- Will attend next Newlands' gathering in January.
- All submissions from Expo will be available by the 1<sup>st</sup> week of January and a paper will be signed off by PPC and Finance Committee.
- Timeline process needs to be followed through.
- Will not sign off on anything unless it gets sufficient support from the Parish.
- Site Safe NZ Report will be presented to Finance Committee.

Marie queried when Fr Peter would meet with the Finance Committee to discuss Health & Safety Report. Fr Peter would not give an answer.

Meeting concluded at approximately 9.05pm with closing prayer.

### **Next Meeting**

**Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm at St Benedict's Church Presbytery, Khandallah.**