



**Minutes of the St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Thursday 13 July 2017 at 7.30pm in St Benedict's Presbytery**

Present: Fr Peter, Fr Doug, Eustie Kamath (acting Chair), Tony de Joux, Graham Cooper, Oliver Hartwich, Shirley O'Brien, and Carol Burns (Secretary).

Apologies: Eric D'Souza, Robert McClean and Mark Westerbeke.

Absent: Marita Basabas

Prayer was led by Eustie.

Motion was made by Eustie, and seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting of 8 June. Motion carried.

Ohariu Cemetery

Eustie has looked at the Tindall Foundation as an option to raise funds. He will send a link to Graham to follow this up.

St Andrew's Church & Buildings Maintenance

Fr Peter spoke to the council.

1. What led to the closure? A Health & Safety risk had been identified at 2 previous PPC meetings. The building report stated the building is a risk to the public. Fr Peter had a meeting with the Newlands roof committee who were invited to present a plan to manage the hazard. This plan proved to be inadequate. Consequently notices were posted and statements read at all Masses. Fr Peter stated that the decision to close the Church was his with support from the Cardinal.

2. Help for the community at Newlands: The music groups from St Andrew's have been made welcome and they have been included in the current rosters of the existing Masses. Just as the Newlands community welcomed the people from St Peter & Paul's when their Vigil was cancelled, now the people from Johnsonville welcome the Newlands community. This is an opportunity for both communities to become closer.

3. When will St Andrew's reopen? The building report was summarized at all Masses in the Parish. It is a question of vision taking into account the costs involved. This includes ongoing operational costs and resources. Everyone is invited to send their written feedback to the designated email address. The closing deadline for feedback is 15 August. After that the Finance Committee will draft a plan to address the way forward.

Comments made by members:

- What are the arrangements for security at St Andrew's after Fr Sebastian leaves?
- This is a challenging time. We need to focus on God and the people.
- Some negative verbal feedback – people are angry.
- Could we recycle some assets?
- Offer some hope to the Newlands community – perhaps open the Church for Summer.
- Some people are prepared to pay towards the roof now by way of fundraising.
- The report gave the facts only – we need to come up with creative solutions.
- Chapel is still dry – can we use this?

Once the Finance Committee have their recommendations ready, there will be an informal process to discuss this followed by a formal process which will need to be submitted to the Archdiocesan Board of Administration, then to the Priest Consultors. A financial plan needs to be part of the proposal.

Fr Peter outlined the role of both the PPC and the Finance Committee during this process. The strategic planning committee would also be consulted.

Synod Update

A Synod meeting was held at St Peter and Paul's Hall run by Robert McClean and Lucienne Hensel. There were 9 themes for discernment. Fr Peter asked for input on the evaluation of Lucienne as this was part of her Lay Leader assessment. Eustie will email his comments.

Parish Gathering/Feast Day Events

Kevin McCormack wants to run an event in August with a speaker followed by a social event. The feast day of St Francis of Assisi is in October and this is also an opportunity for a gathering.

Health and Safety

Fr Peter to email Tony the appropriate policy from the Archdiocese.

General Correspondence

None tabled.

Other Business

Council of Priests matters: 1. Year of Mercy – Pope says to focus on Scripture.

2. World day of the poor 19 November.

3. Ecumenical initiatives such as Inner City Ministry.

Say NO to Euthanasia. This Sunday and next Sunday cards will be left out for people to sign and send in as a protest. Organised by John Kleinsman and Paul Alsford.

The Pope has allowed new grounds for canonisation of saints. "If their life was offered for others".

Next Meeting:

Thursday, 10th August, 7.30pm at St Peter & Pauls Hall.