



**Minutes of the St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
Thursday 14 September 2017 at 7.30pm in St Benedict's Church Presbytery**

**Present:** Fr Peter, Fr Doug, Eustie Kamath (Acting Chair), Marita Basabas, Graham Cooper, Tony de Joux, Eric D'Souza, Oliver Hartwich, Shirley O'Brien, Mark Westerbeke and Deborah Lim (Secretary).

**Apologies:** Robert McClean

Opening prayer was led by Eustie.

Motion was made by Eustie, and seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting of 10 August. Motion carried. Minutes are now to be loaded onto Parish website.

**Parish Gathering**

Eustie attended the event held on 10 September. Shirley was one of the speakers. Small crowd in attendance, which consisted of wide range of ages and cultures. Well organised. Report by Kevin McCormack tabled, which will be included in Book of Life with photos to come. Fr Peter has thanked Kevin and expressed wish that the Book of Life be extended across all Masses with contributions to be received from Parishioners in each community, starting from February 2018.

**Parish Feast Day**

This is on the agenda for the next Ohariu Liturgy Group meeting on 19 September. Following this, Fr Peter will arrange a further meeting with Sr Judith and Marita. It was agreed that there is insufficient time to plan for a single Parish-wide event this year. Fr Peter suggested that at the next Newlands Community afternoon tea gathering on 24 September, they could incorporate a Prayer or Liturgy session to commemorate the Feast Day. Mark and Shirley will coordinate.

**Social Justice Week**

Eustie reported that very little has been done for Social Justice Week due to the Synod and elections. More action will be taken after those events.

**Lectio Divina**

Weekend chosen is 28/29 Oct when there will be only one reading i.e. the Gospel which is to be proclaimed using Lectio Divina. Lectio Divina training is scheduled for 7 and 12 Oct. There are four nominees from Johnsonville who will be attending. Tony will organise 2 people from Khandallah to attend.

**Music & Liturgy**

Music Ministry Matters event was held on 18 August, which was well attended by the Newlands and Johnsonville music groups and a great success. Fr Peter has received a follow up report from Pat Collier.

**Submissions on Building Report**

All submissions received were tabled.

No specific recommendations were made by the Finance Committee at their meeting on 29 August, but a number of different scenarios and questions for the PPC to consider were discussed.

Key points raised:

- Majority of submissions indicate preference for retaining communities.
- Need to think of 10-year vision and plan for future of Parish as well as schools.
- Sell Newlands, with proceeds to expand Johnsonville and cover ongoing maintenance.
- Is there enough room in Johnsonville for expansion? Newlands has more land.
- Predicted population growth in area, but what percentage is Catholic?
- Need data on population growth research.
- Sell Newlands and build smaller complex somewhere else for worship and community purposes.
- Do we need to consult Parishioners?
- Send negative signals if we withdraw from a suburb/community completely.

*Action: All Council members to make submissions to Eustie or Deb by 30 September, considering the pastoral (human) implications of each scenario in the Finance Committee diagram, and the pros and cons of each. Eustie will then compile all submissions into a report, ready for next PPC meeting.*

Parishioners will be updated after next PPC meeting.

### **General Correspondence**

- Email from Wendy Cleaver re: agenda for Ohariu Liturgy Group meeting on 19 September.
- Email from Lorraine McArthur re: Stewardship Retreat Day on 2 December from 9.30am to 3.15pm at St Thomas More Church, Wilton.
- Email from Debbie Matheson re: October 2017 Stewardship Month, including Gospel Reflections and Prayers of the Faithful.
- Email from Cardinal John re: Clarification of Misunderstanding about Parish Levies and Charges.

### **Other Business**

- Cardinal John has asked that the Newlands Presbytery be made available as a residence for Fr Sebastian Kollam, a member of the Samoan Chaplaincy Pastoral Team. Fr Sebastian is expected to take up residence in October. Tony questioned whether the Presbytery is habitable due to asbestos issues raised in the Building Report – his objection is noted.
- Mark suggested having a Pastoral Council Retreat in January.
- Sr Judith has suggested having a Parish Retreat and been in touch with Fr Bernard Espiritu. This may be planned for next year.

Meeting concluded at approximately 9.15pm with closing prayer.

### **Next Meeting**

**Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm at St Peter & Paul's Church Hall, Johnsonville.**