

SFOAO Parish Liturgy Group
Minutes of Meeting 28 JANUARY 2025, 7 p.m., Parish Office

Minutes: David Dobson.

Apologies: Solomon Concessio

Present: Frs. Gerard and Alfred, Margie Crook, Robyn Radomski, David Dobson.
Kitty McKinley, Resty and Magney Sales were warmly welcomed to their first meeting with the group.

1. Opening Prayer: Margie Crook led the opening prayer.

2. Priority matters.

1. It was agreed and approved that there would be short prayer times, led by Challenge on St Brigid's Day Feb 1st at 2pm, and 11am on Waitangi Day.
2. Mid-week mass/liturgies commencing week 3rd Feb:
 - a. Tuesday Mass time was affirmed as at 5.30pm. Reconciliation would be available before or after this Mass.
 - b. Evening Liturgy Thursday at 5.30pm will replace the morning one.
 - c. Monday evening Liturgy proposal was considered and declined.
 - d. Wednesday and Friday Mass/Liturgies will continue as last year.
3. Children's Liturgy commencing 9th Feb. Leaders will be commissioned at Mass: the most appropriate time will be when the children come forward.
4. Fr Gerard will seek a common date from the Ministers.
5. SFOA is due to host Ash Wednesday (March 5th), but there is a possibility the St John's Anglicans may do this.
6. The Divine Mercy Novena and Divine Mercy Sunday, 27th April were approved in principle. (Solomon was absent for comment.) His offer to conduct/arrange Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent was also accepted.
7. Year of Jubilee. No pressing issues.
8. "Refreshers" for Ministries. Altar Servers: those nominated to contact Fr. Gerard to arrange a suitable time for a meeting. Music: David to suggest a meeting when he sends out the next roster.
9. The urgent need for a new church computer will be referred to the Finance Committee.

3. Previous Minutes.

The minutes were reviewed and accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising that were not on this meeting agenda.

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4. REVIEWS.

1. Christmas Masses: A letter from Mr. Paul Gini was tabled and received. His comments related to much of the Liturgy and Music of the 5.30pm Mass as being insufficiently family centred. His comments were supported in some degree by the committee. David suggested that “Christmas” could be placed on the June agenda, thus giving all time to consider and plan for the season.
2. The Nativity Scene was moved from the in front of the altar to the lectern side very soon after its original placement. It was considered that this was and is a better place for the crib.
3. Having members of various ministries in the Parish lighting the Advent candle was successful and could be continued in the future.
4. Co-ordinators and volunteers over the Christmas-New Year period were found, and duties performed well.
5. Fr. Gerard’s 40th anniversary celebrations were well received and enjoyed.

4. General Business.

1. The re-placement (alternative location) of the St. Francis of Assisi picture was discussed. The suggestion was made that the opinion of the Parish be sought at the up-coming Parish Synodal gathering.
2. The relationship of the Liturgy Committee with Parish Pastoral Council was clarified. Arising from discussion was the suggestion that all Parish Ministries could collectively meet with the Pastoral Council once or twice a year to co-ordinate planning and progress.
3. There need to be a ‘duty roster’ in place when the office is closed in January, to deal with aspects of church cleanliness, such as the toilets, when funerals and other events take place. The Finance/Property committee will be advised about this.
4. There was a suggestion that there could be some moderation of the “sexist language” in readings of the Mass. It was remarked that some readers quietly make this adjustment anyway.

Retained ‘live’ in the Minutes:

1. In Lent 2025, because the parish has Catechumenates, readings will be Year A, not the designated Year C. As the Year ‘A’ readings are quite long, Fr. Gerard suggested that there be no second reading during Lent. Readers will need to be advised of this.
2. Training of Ministers: There have been technical difficulties with the Bridgeman videos which were to be used as a resource.

David led the closing prayer.

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: 18 February 2025.