

St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes – 12 July 2026 – FINAL

Present: Ed Becker, Lucienne Hensel, Ning Ibarra, Nick Borthwick (minutes), Joanne Byrne, James Fouhy (chair), Fr. Alfred Tong (Asst. Parish Priest), Msgr. Gerard Burns (Parish Priest)

The Meeting Opened with the Parable of the Sower – our Gospel reading for today

Agenda:

1. Review of 7 June meeting minutes

- Feast of All Peoples timing corrected
- Meeting minutes finalised and approved.

2. Consultation Draft Reflections

- Natasha registered thanks for the assistance provided by PPC members into the process
- Discussed some of key points emerging – location in Johnsonville; a more traditional design with elevated altar; accessibility for those with special needs, the elderly and the young; a baptistery/font; keeping considerations of youth spaces for interaction – future focused
- There has been limited engagement from youth – despite efforts made – something for us to keep working on to understand further and improve
- Church capacity – our present capacity is around 350 ... an aim to be able to house 500+
- We have started with this preliminary sense ... we also need to go to the modern liturgy ... do some formation work too (a Church road trip was mentioned!) ... as we start to put together a design brief, keeping budget in mind
- This now goes to Abp Paul from the Parish Council Finance committee by the end of the month
- Archbishop will also be mindful of options including accommodation for Priests
- **Action:** Methods of dissemination of report to the Parish discussed – full report on the website, link in newsletter. We also discussed a short presentation of key results to be made at mass.

3. Reflection on the six areas of the Parish Pastoral Plan

- Liturgy:
 - What can we do to acknowledge unity and diversity in our worship (some ideas: a survey of peoples origins; every Sunday include one country in prayers of faithful etc)
 - How do we participate and support the liturgical celebrations in the wider archdiocese
 - Is it better to say that “we provide a welcoming and friendly space for all ... where everyone can experience Gods presence and sense of community” rather than present wording on family centred
 - Change active programme of formation – we encourage people to discover and live out their baptismal call ... discern their gifts ... and find channels to use their gifts.
- Community:
 - Some of the elements are not done now ... like ‘messy church’ ... and there are some covid elements too.
 - Suggested edit – to remove the details that are specific.
 - A need to know which groups are there in the church – Passionist Groups etc.
 - Link from the PPC to the groups ... understanding what they are doing and where the needs are

- Ecology Justice and Peace:
 - We don't have an EJP group in the parish, but
 - We do several activities – Caritas Social justice week, St Vincent de Paul, connection with Challenge, community garden, plastics and recycling, parish houses rented at lower cost, fund with Challenge for social outreach ministry (refugees and migrants),
 - We aren't so strong in the joint advocacy. Is there any way as a parish we do advocacy about social/political issue.
 - Perhaps a sense of how to do as an overall parish?
 - Closing of St Thomas More church – they have an active EJP group and some members may join our Parish
 - Some outreach to other churches happening within the Ministers group – talking about food banks, Johnsonville Community Op Shop
- Faith Formation and Evangelisation:
 - Discernment is already done before evangelisation or the development of formation opportunities and so theres a feeling that doesn't belong here...
 - So we "nourish our faith and grow the faith in others, sharing the good news";
 - "We actively support growing faith in the community through the sacraments"; and
 - "We equip the community to develop leadership in ministry and offer formation possibilities."
- Pastoral Care
 - What happens to families who have baptisms after they are introduced?
 - Those who lead the visitation ministry can feel unsupported
 - Some word edits also included:
 - "We encourage and support our parishioners to join ministries, activities and groups, to get to know each other, and to enable them to support, empower and nurture one another."
 - Leaders and coordinators of parish ministries and pastoral groups are provided with support, encouragement, and training/**formation** relevant to their needs.
- Ecumenism and Interfaith
 - Good Friday, Ministers Coffee Monthly, Carols at the Mall, Ash Wednesday, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, World Day of Prayer. May not be widely publicised (ide to use one notice board for it). Different generations of people from different backgrounds may not know.
 - Interfaith – Iftar meal hosting.
 - How do we ensure that some of the older patterns are made relevant to today and continued – such as the World Day of Prayer which was led by women.
- **Action:** Take elements in the liturgy section to the liturgy committee meeting on Tuesday.
- **Action:** We will reflect on the elements and edits above, from now until the 9th of August, and decide how to take this to the wider community and make changes/actions.

Meeting Closed 3pm with a Prayer from Pa Gerry.

Our thanks to Lucienne for hosting at the Hensel whare.

NEXT PPC MEETING: 23 August 2026, 7pm