



ST COLUMBA'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH • LEICHHARDT NORTH

Parish Council
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 6th May 2020, 7.38 pm
Meeting via Jitsi.

ITEM	ACTION
1. Welcome, opening prayer and reflection:	
<p>Opening prayer by Renata (from a prayer from Pope Francis on the 52nd communication day: “Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Help us to recognize the evil latent in a communication that does not build communion. Help us to remove the venom from our judgements. Help us to speak about others as our brothers and sisters. You are faithful and trustworthy; may our words be seeds of goodness for the world: where there is shouting, let us practise listening; where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony; where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity; where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity; where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety; where there is superficiality, let us raise real questions; where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust; where there is hostility, let us bring respect; where there is falsehood, let us bring truth. Amen.”</p>	No action required
2. Attendance / Apologies:	
<p>Vasile provided the attendance & apologies for tonight’s meeting.</p> <p><u>Present:</u> Adrian Overs, Vasile Tiano, Therese Pacey, Jennifer Cheal, Renata Popovic-Tomac, David Hair, Tino Mian, Bernard Ryan, & Nicola Connors.</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Fr. Peter</p>	No action required
3. Minutes of the previous meeting to be moved:	
<p>(No changes or amendments from the previous meeting).</p> <p>Moved by: Adrian Second by: Jennifer</p>	No action required
4. New Member	
<p>No new members or communications on this issue. The Pastoral Parish Council (“PPC”) will continue to invite and advertise for people to join.</p>	Communications – Marcia or Jennifer.
5. Business arising from previous meeting:	
<p>i) Church Podcast Update</p>	

<p>Jennifer stated the final step for Church Podcast (“CP”) is to decide and select a music introduction. Vasile Tiano created three possible CP music intros for the PPC. The PPC unanimously thanked him for his service and expertise in creating three options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some PPC members wanted to re-listen to the music. Jennifer said she will resend the email with Vasile’s three options. PPC said they will re-send/send their preferred music introduction to Jennifer. <p>Issue (raised by Jennifer): Creating a tab/drop down menu for podcast. Jennifer said she will fix this issue.</p> <p>Issue (raised by Jennifer): Should we start the podcast as soon as possible. Vasile commented that the podcast should commence as soon as possible – “the best time to start” – to connect and communicate to the St. Columbas’ parish and wider community. The majority agreed on this comment as well.</p> <p>Issue: Jennifer raised the frequency or direction of the CP. For example, how many times a week will Fr. Peter talk/upload? What will be the content or direction for the podcast? Jennifer said will it only be the homily or what other messages/content should be included?</p> <p>The direction of the CP is part PPC wishes and Fr. Peter. Nicola stated it depends on the methods to record, Fr. Peter’s availability and direction for CP.</p> <p>Adrian, and on behalf of everyone, thanked Jennifer for her commitment, drive, and direction for the Church Podcast.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jennifer to resend - PPC to email Jennifer which music intro by Vasile should be the Podcast intro (and the majority decision is the final). - Jennifer to liaise with Fr. Peter and Nicola how to record, upload, send audio to Jennifer and direction for the CP.
<p>5. Business arising from previous meeting: ii) Church Organ</p>	
<p>From the start, 23rd July 2019, A PPC member raised the suggestion to obtain a church organ. The Parish in the past had an original organ. PPC members all agreed, with confirmation by Fr. Peter, such an investment will require information, documentation and quotes given to the finance committee at St. Columbas’.</p> <p>Vasile provided 6 attachments with detailed information about a church organ: Letter of proposal (including history, Direction/Way/Mode in obtaining an Organ, and costs etc.); email communications; Questions with answers PPC members wanted to know; Letter/Quote from AllOrgans; and Speaker Installations photos. Theses attachments, if motion was agreed by PPC members, would be given to the finance committee at St. Columbas’.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>PPC members had a long discussion about this Item and raised some issues.</p> <p>Issue: Church is currently closed and could be closed until the end of the year.</p>	<p>No action required</p>

As well the option to have a 'demo' day (offered by AllOrgans). There is uncertainty and 'limited numbers' i.e. 5 or 10 people allowed in the church would not be idle to have a demo of an organ.

Issue: Frequency in performance/playing the organ. Who will be playing the organ

Issue: Cost and Priority. Some PPC members debated an 'investment' or 'money raised' to obtain an organ can be utilised elsewhere. Including raised by Renata, that the organ may not be our current priority. Especially due to the impact of COVID-19.

Tino raised the cost to performance/life hood of an organ in the parish: if there are, on average, 57 masses per year that an organ can be performed/played and a base cost of an organ is \$25,000.00, (\$25,000.00 divided by 57 masses), it would equate to \$438.00 in one year that it can be paid/return. Over 15 year it would be \$30.00 per mass. In other words, how much an organ would cost per mass.

Tino stated an investment like this is about cost to benefit – would it be wise for our parish to invest? Vasile put forward that an investment in an organ would benefit the school (and education) or music aspects for the parish.

During the lengthy discussion regarding the organ, Nicola suggested exploring options for a PA system that would enable music to be played in other areas of the parish (eg. outside the church at Christmas Eve, Pet's Mass).

Motion: Should the PPC proceed with obtaining an organ for the parish (and give the proposal created by Vasile to the finance committee)?

Bernard Ryan and Nicola Connors are Ex officio.

Voted

For: 1

Against: 6

A majority of the PPC members voted down/against in obtaining an organ for the parish (and to give documents or the proposal created by Vasile to the finance committee).

(Renata put forward that the parish can reconsider in obtaining an organ in the future – "to put on hold...something we can look again in the future")

Renata, and on behalf of everyone, thanked Vasile for taking the time to investigate, to organise meetings and provide documents for the PPC. As well researching and getting quotes on organs. In particular to his efforts are much appreciated and how presented this item.

<p>6. Parish Event in 2020: Focus on Indigenous issues:</p> <p>David raised that a subcommittee at the Social Justice Group was formed and met on March 3.</p> <p>The subcommittee proposed that: Aboriginal issues to be focus for 2020 – “Six months of the Spirit, from Pentecost to Advent”, culminating in a parish event on November 21 or 22.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liturgy – prayer of intercession, acknowledgement of country at each Mass • Bulletin – Weekly section on Indigenous issues • Develop relationship with local Aboriginal community – seek input from appropriate people, eg, Lisa Buxton (Adult Catholic Ministry Sydney). • Special Day on November 21 or 22 could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. “Hands on” activity for all parishioners (e.g., footprints) ii. Speakers to cover wide range of issues, e.g., Aboriginal Spirituality, Environment, Uluru Statement, Racism <p>Due to COVID-19, no further progress has occurred. There were no objections by PPC members to these proposals.</p>	<p>David to update the PPC at next meeting</p>
<p>7. Response to Therese Briggs re UNHCR fundraiser</p> <p>May fundraiser postponed. Virtual fundraiser considered. Depending on when meeting restrictions are lifted, fundraiser might be cancelled for this year</p>	<p>No action required</p>
<p>8. Proposal from Social Justice Group for parish event</p> <p>David raised that a subcommittee at the Social Justice Group was formed.</p> <p>Thalia Anthony (UTS) has agreed to be a speaker. A subcommittee to meet soon.</p> <p>Suggestions for subcommittee to consider: Aboriginal theme in Liturgy Symbols important - “hands on” activity for all parishioners (e.g., footprints) Speakers to cover wide range of issues, e.g., Aboriginal Spirituality, Environment, Uluru Statement, Racism Format: all-day symposium with a variety of speakers and time for Q &A Include regular snippets in Bulletin on Aboriginal issues Useful contacts- Melbourne Aboriginal Catholic Ministry AWAYE (ABC Podcast), Lisa Buxton (Adult Catholic Ministry Sydney).</p> <p>Proposal was for PPC to endorse the Palm Sunday Rally on April 5. Parish would have been listed on promotional material as an official supporter. Rally was cancelled.</p> <p>There were no objections by PPC members.</p>	<p>No action required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further updates under parish sub-committee.
<p>9. Sound system in Parish hall</p> <p>Interface in the parish hall may be too old and need an update or updating its connections VGA/HDMI.</p>	<p>Bernard to discuss with Fr. Peter. As</p>

<p>Bernard stated the Hall is a shared responsibility with the Parish and the School.</p> <p>Sound system/Mixer – external sound powered PA speaker features a built-in microphone input etc. & Mix desk.</p>	<p>well to update at the next meeting.</p>
<p>10. Rosters</p>	
<p>David volunteered to complete and take responsibility in the rosters until further notice. David to email current members listed asking if they wished to make changes to their duties or the Masses at which they volunteer. David to email current members listed to be readers with questions.</p>	<p>David to update at next meeting.</p>
<p>11. The sacraments for 2020 (reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation – timetable)</p>	
<p>Tino raised this item to the PPC.</p> <p>Nicola noted what has occurred since the pandemic was declared. Sacrament of Reconciliation preparation was modified to ensure that families could complete the program safely and enable the reception of the sacrament after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Also, the RCIA Process continued via Zoom when places of worship were closed. The candidate will receive the sacraments after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.</p>	<p>Nicola will update at the next meeting.</p>
<p>12. School report moved by: Vasile Tiano Seconded by: Adrian</p>	
<p>Table by Mr. Bernard Ryan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since Tuesday 24 March all schooling in NSW has moved to online remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Teachers are setting learning tasks online for all students from Kindergarten to Year 6. School is open for supervision for those that families that require it. - The transition back to face-to-face learning begins on Monday 11 May with all classes attending school for two consecutive days each week, with remote learning for the other three days of the week. From June 1 all children will return to fulltime face-to-face learning, however social gathering restrictions are still likely to be in place. The situation is fluid and we need to continually respond to the guidelines and expectations of governments, health professionals and Sydney Catholic Schools. - I am looking forward to having a more normal and comprehensive school report at the next meeting. - The adaptability and flexibility of all staff and parents, in this challenging time, is to be commended. Mr. Bernard Ryan would like to give thanks and acknowledgment. 	<p>No action required</p>
<p>13. Parish sub-committee updates:</p>	

i. Social Committee:

Tino: "Now in shutdown!"

Nicola would like to add that a phone buddy system had commenced due to COVID-19 and been benefit to those involved.

ii. Social Justice Group / Reaching out to others:

Still supporting JRS.

- Office is drop-off point for donations.
- St Columba's is also one of the Sydney drop-off points.
- Continuing to source and deliver specific items requested by casework manager
- One parishioner is a volunteer deliverer of food parcels for JRS clients.

Still putting information in the Mass bulletin.

JRS is running a zoom event on May 6 on the impacts that COVID-19 has been having on people seeking asylum. It will give people a deeper understanding of what has been happening as they will be hearing from people working on the front line. We'll be hearing from three JRS speakers, sharing how people can be part of the change (and the positive outcomes that can come!) and there will also be a time for Q&A.

iii. Liturgy:

Therese – no update.

iv. Communications:

Jennifer has update required information for website.

Issue: How do we connect with our parishioners?

Create a mailchimp account/link to get parishioners to sign-up for current information. Creating a social media account on Instagram.

PPC members discussed that the sub-committee 'communications' has grown over the years.

Renata and Vasile: Are we redefining the sub-committee 'Communications' – updating website; podcast; church sign; and bulletin. Social-media is a new sub-committee only looking at social media platform: Instagram and Facebook.

Jennifer nominated Tino, and agreed by the majority, that he will run this sub-committee.

Motion: To create a sub-committee called Social Media under the umbrella of Communications.

Bernard Ryan and Nicola Connors are Ex officio.

Jennifer: to create a mailchimp account and link on website.

Tino to discuss what will be the direction of the new sub-committee social media.

<p>Voted For: 7 Against: 0</p> <p><u>A majority of the PPC members voted for the creation of a sub-committee called Social Media under the umbrella of Communications.</u></p>	
<p>14. New Items:</p>	
<p>Possible items to discuss at next meeting:</p> <p>What are our current priorities? What are the things the church or Parish currently need? To create a list of needs or requirements for the parish - Renata</p> <p>What is the current direction for the Parish? What is the current direction we the PPC would like to take the St. Columbas community? – Jennifer/Renata</p> <p>Parish Hall – AirCon/Cooling - Renata</p> <p>The new sub-committee Social media under the umbrella of communications: to discuss what will be its direction or platforms? What do we want to achieve? – Tino</p>	<p>No action required</p>
<p>Meeting closed at 9.47pm Next meeting: 9th June 2020 - Same platform via Jitsi.</p>	