



**ST COLUMBA'S**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH • LEICHHARDT NORTH

**Parish Council**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30 pm  
Meeting at St Columba's Parish Hall.

ITEM	ACTION
<b>1. Welcome, opening prayer and reflection:</b>	
Opening prayer by Fr Peter	
<b>2. Attendance / Apologies:</b>	
<u>Present:</u> Nicola Connors, Therese Pacey, Jennifer Cheal, Renata Popovic-Tomac, Tino Mian, Fr Peter, David Hair	No action required
<u>Apologies:</u> Adrian Overs, Vasile Tiano, Bernard Ryan	
<b>3. Business arising from previous meeting:</b>	
<b>i) Parish Event in 2020: Focus on Indigenous issues</b>	
Subcommittee intends to meet face to face next week. Proposes to develop a podcast to go on the parish website for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday (July 5). Council members all supportive of this initiative.	David to provide update at next meeting
<b>3. Business arising from previous meeting:</b>	
<b>ii) Sound system in Parish hall</b>	
There was a short discussion of the need to upgrade the sound system. Fr Peter reported that there were two separate issues involved: a lighting issue and an AV issue.	Fr Peter and Bernard to continue to work on best way to upgrade the system.
<b>3. Business arising from previous meeting:</b>	
<b>iii) Rosters</b>	
David reported that he had developed a draft roster of Commentators, Readers and Ministers for the time that Masses resume. An offertory roster is also ready but is not needed under the current conditions. Discussion followed about when Masses might resume. At this time the small size of the church allows Mass attendance for only a small number of people. Therefore, no Sunday Mass for the foreseeable future. Even an outside Mass would be difficult to celebrate. Friday Masses continue but attendance might have to be rostered if the number of attendees gets much bigger (currently about 10-15). Fr Peter expressed gratitude to Jennifer for her assistance in the production of the weekly podcast of his sermon.	No action required

<b>3. Business arising from previous meeting:</b> <b>iv) The sacraments for 2020</b>	
<p>Nicola and Fr Peter reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmations are cancelled for this year.</li> <li>• First Reconciliation and First Eucharist are postponed indefinitely since these are family events that are impossible to hold under current COVID-19 guidelines.</li> <li>• Baptisms and RCIA are also indefinitely postponed.</li> </ul>	<p>No action required.</p>
<b>4. What are our current priorities (2020)?</b>	
<p>Two issues (raised at the previous meeting) were considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. PA system. For discussion see Item 3ii.</li> <li>ii. Aircon in Hall. Discussion concerned the possible cost of upgrading the system and whether it might even be necessary. The inadequacy of the current aircon system was raised. Fr Peter reported that he and Bernard had agreed to share the running costs of any new system. However, the cost of supply and installation would have to come from elsewhere, possibly from money raised by the P&amp;F. Since P&amp;F activities are cancelled for 2020, this issue won't be considered until next year.</li> </ol> <p>This agenda item to become a standard one for the time being.</p>	<p>All members to consider what other issues should be prioritised, and present them for discussion at the next meeting.</p>
<b>5. What is the current direction for the Parish?</b>	
<p>Discussion centred around how best to keep parishioners engaged with the parish. Tino and Jennifer emphasised the central role at the current time (and into the future) of social media for informing and inviting and of Zoom (or equivalent) for interacting with parishioners. Nicola suggested discussion groups (e.g., Bible) and liturgies led by facilitators might be helpful for engaging parishioners. There might also be the possibility of streaming these events or in some other way making them available for a larger audience.</p>	<p>Tino to bring more information re use of social media to next meeting. Nicola/Fr Peter to work out options for small group events.</p>
<b>6. Parish Hall – AirCon/Cooling</b>	
<p>See Item 4 above.</p>	
<b>7. School report   moved by: Tino Seconded by: David</b>	
<p>Tabled by Mr. Bernard Ryan. Accepted unanimously.</p> <p>Contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students and school staff returned to full time face-to-face teaching on Monday 25 May. This included the resumption of GotGame and Mandarin lessons. Large gatherings and assemblies are still not permitted on site.</li> <li>• St. Columba's appeared in a BBC news report on schools in NSW returning to full time schooling. The article highlighted parental feelings about children returning to school and the risk minimisation strategies that the school has in place.</li> <li>• St. Columba's Feast Day was celebrated with a whole school Zoom liturgy, activities related to the life of St. Columba, and the children wearing mufti clothes that matched the school colours. Many families</li> </ul>	<p>No action required</p>

<p>also joined in the parish celebrations in the evening. It was a wonderful community day to mark the feast day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Friday 26 June our community will be participating in the Sydney Catholic Schools Winter Sleepout. All families are invited to participate.</li> <li>• School for Term 2 concludes on Friday 3 July. Term 3 begins on Monday 20 July.</li> </ul> <p>Fr Peter added the following to the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School website is being updated.</li> <li>• Kindergarten 2021 interviews have been completed. There are 18 siblings and 23 other applications for 32 places.</li> </ul>	
<b>8. Parish sub-committee updates:</b>	
<p>i. <b><u>Social Committee:</u></b> No update</p> <p>ii. <b><u>Social Justice Group / Reaching out to others:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SJG is intending to hold a face to face meeting in the Parish hall in early July.</li> <li>• No update on the UNHCR fundraiser.</li> <li>• Parishioners continue to give good support to JRS appeals. Several parishioners volunteer preparing food packages and as delivery drivers.</li> </ul> <p>iii. <b><u>Liturgy:</u></b> No update</p> <p>iv. <b><u>Communications:</u></b> See Item 5 above</p> <p>v. <b><u>Social Media:</u></b> See Item 5 above</p>	No action required
<b>9. New Items:</b>	
Nil	
<b>10. Minutes of the previous meeting to be moved:</b>	
<p>Minutes accepted unanimously.</p> <p>Moved by: Tino Second by: Jennifer</p>	No action required
<p>Meeting closed at 9.05pm <b>Next meeting:</b> Tuesday 21 July 7.30pm. Parish Hall</p>	