



St Raphael's Parish Pastoral Council

Thursday 3 March 2016

7.00 pm to 8.30 pm

St Raphael's School Hall

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Rosie, Annette, Br. Ben, Gail, Father Isidore, Carl, Chris, Minh, Michael, Sharon, Natalie

Chairperson – Sharon; Minutes Secretary - Carl

1 Welcome and apologies

Apologies from Jan and Max

Natalie Prego introduced as St. Raphael and Mater Dei Youth Ministry Coordinator and attendee representing both Parishes at World Youth Day 2016.

2 Fr Isidore Welcome and prayer

Father welcomed all and led us in prayer.

3 Previous minutes 26 November 2015

Reviewed and accepted with Michael prime and Gail seconding.....carried.

4 Presidents Report

No specific report – Sharon acknowledged efforts of Council members in various activities over the past 2 months in supporting the Parish – also provided parents feedback during discussion arising from Principals Report (see below)

5 Principals Report

- Good start to the year – week commencing 7th March is start of 2017 enrolment period.
- Focus on strengthening community and Parish engagement:
 - **SPAR** - parishioners are welcome.
 - **Social Justice** (led by Michelle Kerr and Jennifer Milne)
 - **“Vinnies Van”**
 - parents volunteer to prepare the Van during the day for that upcoming night (packing supplies etc).
 - possible extra days which means extra people to help which will be the opportunity to tap into parishioner volunteers. Communication via the Bulletin/announcements at Mass.

- **AP (Carl):** to send email to Annette to find out the contacts at Vinnies to organise possible parishioner day for volunteering
- **“Mini Vinnies”**
 - Children involved in this.
- **Staff Activity** – Annette described how school staff volunteered for a night of support for the homeless – just being there and having a conversation – again if opportunity for parishioners to be involved this can be explored.
- **Opening School Mass and BBQ**
 - Important event as part of strengthening the ties with the school and the parish – successfully held.
 - Sharon requested that Father stay longer next year (if possible) at the BBQ to engage with the parents – depends on availability of priest for Mass at Mater Dei.
- **Parents Forum**
 - Annette advised that the School will survey/request input from the parent community on what the school does well and any areas for improvement. **AP (Annette)** - The results will be analysed by Annette and report back to Father.
 - **Parent Feedback – Sharon**
 - Suggestion that families be on a roster for bringing up the Offertory Gifts at the Mass
 - Roster for children to read the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass.
 - **Parent/Children – General**
 - Suggestion to start Children’s Liturgy on Sunday Mass – needs volunteer to run this.
 - Father advised Council Members to take note of any new families and make effort to introduce themselves/ say “hello” / welcome...
 - Families with children an Public Schools was raised by Br. Ben – Annette suggested letter of invitation could be sent by the Parish – **AP (Michael)**
- **General**
 - Annette advised that a meeting will be scheduled to discuss how school and Parish can work better together – attendees will be Father, Annette, Br. Ben, Michael, Michelle and Jennifer.

6 Business Arising

6.1 Promotion of Men’s Group

- Carl described what this is about, what occurs and when – between 4 and 5 regular attendees on Thursday evenings (8pm-9pm) engage in fellowship and discussion/reflection on the upcoming Bible readings for the weekend and other matters of interest/topics (eg: Lenten series).
- Father is very supportive and encourages the group to increase in visibility, action and numbers. The group is currently promoted via regular small notice in the

Bulletin - **AP (Carl)**: to promote the group further -suggested to make announcement at Mass(es).

6.2 Audio Visual Cabinet in Church - rectification

- Following installation of the new equipment last year it was noted that the cabinet was quite large and obstructed view of altar from the rear of the church and also the choir and Powerpoint operators.
- Michael has investigated the cost to replace the cabinet with a smaller unit by the company that did the original installation - \$800 plus Labour
- Minh suggested an alternative solution which could save money – i.e. swapping the cabinet with the existing smaller cabinet located in the Reconciliation Room. If needed - he knows an Electrician.
- **AP (Men's Group – Carl and Minh)** organise a time to explore whether this swap is possible and then do the work – suggested after Easter celebrations finished.

6.3 Easter church activities

- Br. Ben advised planning is well under way although Rosters still need to be filled – this will be highlighted with parishioners and also Michael will request school participation.
- Annette advised school will be doing Stations of the Cross – Br. Ben will use this as opportunity to invite participants to volunteer for Easter Masses.
- Easter Eggs will be handed out to the children – Parish Secretary is already organising this....

6.4 Youth Ministry - Natalie

- Natalie Prego introduced as new Youth Ministry Coordinator for both Parishes. She provided an update and plan for fundraising for support to attend WYD 2016. \$2,500 is the target to raise to go towards flight costs etc. An Easter raffle will be organised – Natalie will sell tickets – **AP (Natalie)** will speak at Mass and request donations for Raffle Prizes. Br. Ben suggested DVD Clip and Promotional Video for WYD be played at Mass.
- WYD is in July and Natalie will be representing both Parishes.
- She is also establishing connections with other Youth Groups and also will commence planning events using Catholic Youth Services “Edge” Program – dates to be confirmed.
- On youth matters, Father related a recent experience having been invited to attend youth events at St. Mary's Cathedral including 1 hour Adoration. Father heard many confessions and was very encouraged by the participation of the youth – it was a wonderful experience.

6.5 General Parish update – Michael

- Michael reported on recent Mater Dei Council meeting – planning commencing for “Christmas in July” combined Parish Dinnerdate is 22nd July....representatives from St. Raphael requested to be part of the organising committee. Next meeting for this planning is 10th March.
- Suggestion for getting groups together to promote community – Acolytes, Choir, Altar Society.

- Lenten Groups currently being run – at Men's Group and Michael and Monica's.
- Promoting Caritas – DVD clips will be played at Mass.

7 Standing Item:

7.1 Pastoral Plan – Visit goals not discussed previously or requiring discussion

To be carried over. New plan to be looked at in line with 2016/17 Diocesan Plan when that comes out.

8 Other/General Business

- Rosie has related the work she is doing in investigating and writing the history of St. Raphael's church. Some very interesting information has been discovered and this will form part of Rosie's comprehensive documenting of our history – thanks Rosie.

9 Next Meeting

Scheduled for 7pm on

Thursday 26th May 2016

Meeting Closed – 8.30pm