



St Raphael's Parish Pastoral Council

Thursday 7 Sept 2017

Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

St Raphael's Hall

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Fr. Isidore, Br. Ben, Annette, Minh, Carl, Chris, Michael, Max, Minh, Rosie

Chairperson – Minh; Minutes Secretary – Carl

1 Apologies N/A

2 Fr. Isidore Welcome and prayer

Father welcomed us all and lead us in an opening prayer.

3 Previous Minutes 8 Jun 2017

Reviewed and accepted with Minh proposing and seconded by Br. Ben.

4 Presidents Report – Minh

Things are generally going well with our parish in the rhythm of Masses, community and school areas. A few points below:

- First Communion went well – preparations and Mass – thanks Father, Br.Ben, Michael, Monica and all who assisted.
- Thanks to Rosie for organising the Photographer for the parish photo(s) for the book. (refer below as well for more on the book).
- Thanks on behalf of the Pastoral Council to Julie our wonderful pianist at Sunday morning Masses. She is leaving and has provided many years of service in this music ministry. An appropriate “thanks and recognition” for Julie will be organised. **AP (Michael/Minh):** Organise a Thank You card. A new pianist is being sought.
- Condolences passed on behalf of Pastoral Council for the recent death of Michael's father-in-law (Monica's father) in India.

5 Principals Report – Annette

- St. Bede's Nursing Home: more and more interactions happening with the school students and community which is great. Includes residents regularly coming over to be reading “buddies” and also participate in playgroup. Compliance dictates that Working With Children (WWC) checks will need to be completed by the residents. Signing in and out and induction required for each resident for each visit to the school.
- Attended “Pastor/Principal” day with Father, the Religious Education Coordinators (RECs) St. Raphael's and Mater Dei. One of the main areas of focus was fostering a closer relationship between the schools (what can be done in common):
 - Events that can be organised together (picnics, other) aiming for 2 or 3 events
 - Planning school calendars for 2018 to accommodate these events

- Upcoming St. Raphael's feast day celebrations will happen on 20th September. There will be face painting and other stalls, kids helping kids and other activities. Also an opportunity for pre-school kids that will be starting next year to attend.
- Recently children attended an NRL Touch Football day – run by the St. George club – this was well organised and the children enjoyed themselves.
- Annette will be going on a Holy Land Pilgrimage with Archbishop Fisher and other School Principals – leaving on September 20th.

6 Youth Ministry Update – Michael

Michael provided the following update:

- Youth Group: Meetings are now held at St Raphael's Hall. Natalie wanted to invite a speaker (Simon Carrington) to talk about Our Lady. However the talk was cancelled twice due to the School children going on an excursion and again due to Mini Vinnies sleep out. The talk will be scheduled next year. Money was raised to fund this talk - Mater Dei raised \$270 and St Raphael's raised \$150. Br Ben said this should be an ongoing event at first Sunday morning tea. Natalie will be thanking the parishioners at the weekend masses.

7 Parish Update – Michael and All

7.1 Business arising from previous Minutes and general update (Michael)

Michael provided the following update:

- Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist was given to 8 public school students whose scripture teachers were Monica and Michael Fernandes
- Father's Day mass was celebrated with all the fathers assembled round the altar for blessing
- 50th Wedding Anniversary was celebrated by Norman and Florence Yenson
- Dempsey Medals were awarded to John and Shirley Wakefield at the Cathedral
- Fr Isidore visited the public schools (Connells Point and South Hurstville) where our scripture teachers teach
- We hosted the Deanery meeting where 18 priests attended. It was followed by dinner

7.2 St. Raphael's Feast Day – Minh

Requesting suitable way(s) to mark the feast day of our Parish patron saint. Celebration Masses will be held on the day (Friday 29th Sept – 9am Mass) and the weekend masses. Friday evening is Adoration with special mention of St. Raphael. Saturday evening we can have light snacks after Mass on veranda; Sunday morning is Morning Tea.

7.3 Maintenance Works – including Safety audit. (Carl/Br. Ben)

Suggested minor works for the church (from previous Minutes):

- *Touch up flaked off areas of front church doors* – Done (Carl)
- *Other "green paint" areas – (electrical fuse box cover)* – Done (Carl)
- *Noticeboard for front entrance alcove* – Done (Carl)
- *Veranda timber floor – sand back and paint (brown – Br. Ben has left over paint from last time)* – This is a big job – not yet commenced.
- *Grills over side stained glass windows –repair/remount* Not done (see below)
- *Review of underfloor storage area for church vs school – check cupboards etc...* Not done (see below)

Other:

- *Spread tree mulch in garden/bed areas* – Done (Br. Ben and Carl)

New works identified:

- Clear out loose bricks forming “walls” in “under church” area (this is a safety issue) – remove bricks and construct new coverings/walls between piers.
 - **AP (Minh/Carl)** to discuss as part of “Men’s Group” possible working bee and to be coordinated with school holiday period and maintenance works (see below).
 - **AP (Michael/Minh)** – organise SKIP BIN
- Repair Water Pump grill – see maintenance works action below
- Sleeper to be reset under tree – see maintenance works action below
- Grills over side stained glass windows repair/remount - see maintenance works action below

- **AP (Michael)** – At Annette’s suggestion – there is a Diocesan Maintenance committee/group that can advise on OH&S issues – Michael to contact and organise them to come out to review and how best to attend to the maintenance works identified. This work can be scheduled for the next school holidays (Sept 22nd to Oct 6th).

7.4 St Raphael’s History Book update. (Rosie)

The book is complete! Father Isidore, along with all the Pastoral Council members congratulated Rosie on a fantastic project. Thanks Rosie! An advance copy was shown to all with the view to discussing a suitable sale price. 1000 copies have been ordered. Agreed that \$20 would be appropriate.

AP (Fr Isidore) – to confirm and advise a suitable launch date.....then planning for promotion prior to launch can take place.....

7.5 Parish 90th anniversary celebration in 2018. (Minh)

Date to be determined and confirmed, following which a Committee will be formed (volunteers to be asked for). Fr.Isidore has already asked the Archbishop’s office for a date at which the Archbishop will be available to attend/and preside over Mass.

7.6 Christmas Party (Rosie)

Michael advised Mater Dei has suggested a combined Christmas Party. Discussion took place leading to agreement that this would be a good idea and that the location could alternate between St. Raphael’s and Mater Dei each year. The first one (this year) can be hosted by Mater Dei with a joint committee organising. Date to be confirmed (expected that it would be a Saturday evening ...including combined Mass ...i.e. no Vigil Mass at St. Raphael’s). **AP (Michael)** – to advise Mater Dei council that St. Raphael’s has agreed and that a date needs to be confirmed. (St. Raphael’s had allocated 25th November).

7.7 Thank you Mass - 1st Sunday in February 2018 (Rosie)

To be organised. People to be recognised will be considered/identified.

7.8 Advanced planning of Annual Calendar of Parish activities in coordination with people/groups involved; including special masses and feasts. (Max)

Better notice/transparency of Father’s appointments has been requested by Max (example of recent Mass held at Cheddar Street). Michael advised there is a system where Father’s appointments are managed via a calendar – however this can change and so hard to lock in with absolute certainty. Never-the-less – improved visibility of this would be a good thing. **AP (Michael)** – to provide link to Max so he can log in and see. Also possibly put a list of upcoming appointments/dates for Fr in the bulletin.

7.9 Review by the Safeguard Officer (whoever is designated) the currencies /expiries of Police Clearance/WWC of people/volunteers required to have one. (Max)

Michael manages the list of people who have WWC including ID numbers.

AP (Max) – in relation to Legion of Mary – Max to provide names of people who haven't done checks to Michael.

7.10 Finance Committee Annual Reports to the Parish (Max)

AP (Michael) – to ask George to provide a summary for last financial year.

Br. Ben suggested this could then be shared with parishioners at a suitable Mass (i.e. when there is a children's Mass).

7.11 Same-Sex Marriage vote – pastoral approach (Carl at parishioner request)

- Archbishop Fisher's DVD message was played at recent Mass. Included challenges the Church is facing in the areas of Faith (Confessional sanctity), Life (Euthanasia) and Love (Same Sex Marriage proposal).
- A letter including Pope Francis's views on SSM will be provided to parishioners at upcoming Mass.
- Father will also re-iterate the Church's position.
- Reminder will be made to parishioners and be encouraged to sign Euthanasia petition.

7.12 Other/General

- Rosie has spoken to Father and tendered her resignation from the Parish Pastoral Council. Minh and Father on behalf of the council and all the parishioners thanked Rosie for her tireless efforts and support for the parish. Thank you sincerely Rosie!

8 Standing Item:

8.1 Pastoral Plan – the current plan has been updated by Carl to a marked up draft version. **AP (Carl):** to send this draft out for comment (DONE).

9 Next Meeting

Scheduled for 7pm on 23rd November 2017.

Meeting Closed – 9.00pm