



St Raphael's Parish Pastoral Council

Thursday 8 June 2017

7.00 pm to 8.30 pm

St Raphael's Hall

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Br. Ben, Carl, Chris, Michael, Max, Minh, Rosie

Chairperson – Minh; Minutes Secretary – Carl

1 Welcome and apologies

Apologies from Father Isidore and Annette

2 Welcome and prayer

Br. Ben welcomed us all and lead us in an opening prayer.

3 Previous Minutes 16 Mar 2017

Reviewed and accepted with Minh proposing and Michael seconded.

4 Presidents Report – Minh

- Easter celebrations were wonderful and followed up with Confirmation just recently. Thanks to Br. Ben for making these so special and also to Michael and all who organised and participated.
- Acolyte and EMHC training provided by the Diocesan Liturgy Office attended and completed. Acolyte training (Minh, Carl, Luke and Norman), EMHC (Minh, Carl, Susan and Helen). Institution of Acolytes will take place early November. We now have a full roster of Acolytes for Saturday and Sunday Masses at St. Raphael's.

5 Principals Report – Br. Ben (on behalf of Annette)

- Pope Francis Awards – have commenced and early indications are that this is very successful with the children participating in an enthusiastic manner. Great support coming from their parents and parishioner mentors. The children are involved in a number of activities including greeting parishioners at Mass, altar serving, choir, St. Bede's assistance, helping at Children's Liturgy and other.
 - Feedback from St. Bede's has been very pleasing – e.g.: morning teas have been great and also the "reading buddies" has been wonderful.

- The logistics are working well – meeting with Nerisa once a week to put roster together and also name tags have been produced – so all running smoothly so far.
- Michael F noted that Gail still needs Working With Children check completed – she has had issues with completing this online – Michael is assisting.
- Afternoon Playgroup has started as a new program offered by the school and there are over 16 families currently coming including non-school parents and also those wanting to enrol in future.
- Gonski 2.0 talk coming up – related to funding for the school.

6 Youth Ministry Update – Michael

Michael provided the following update:

1. Youth Group Meeting is held at Michael Kennedy Centre in Mater Dei, this term.
2. Natalie visited year 5 and 6 classes in SR at the start of the term to recruit more members. She reported that the youth group has declined slightly, the previous fortnight with 11 kids majority being St Raphael's students with only 2 Mater Dei Students as of the 5th of May. She said that when she went to the schools the children that have attended in the past did seem excited and wanted to come, which led her to believe there may be other issues.

Natalie would like to invite Simon Carrington, a guest speaker for the kids as suggested by CYS.

Update received from Natalie: “If we were to have him it would be in Term 3 in August to talk about the Rosary and Mary as the youth group night would be around the time of the Feast of the Assumption. He does not ask for a fee but asks for donations around \$150 - \$200. I am willing to pay for majority of it because I feel like it would be a great experience for the kids to hear from someone else. In regards to raising money, any suggestion would be helpful. I can also speak at mass asking straight out for donations for the youth group. Another idea would be a bake sale type thing after mass.”

- It was agreed that the parish could help Natalie with fund raising for the talk mentioned above via a “fund raising bucket donation” at the next First Sunday morning tea (July). **AP (Michael/Br. Ben)** to ensure the bucket is placed at entrance to the Hall and also **Michael** – to promote via bulleting notice(s). **Natalie** can also speak at Mass as noted above.

7 Parish Update – Michael and All

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

- Acolytes and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion course attended by Minh, Carl and Luke. Certificates will be awarded by the Archbishop at the Cathedral. Date to be advised – expected early November as noted above.
- Men's Bible group is progressing fine. During Lent we invited the ladies to do the Lenten program with men and we had about 10 in attendance. After Easter we decided to form a separate lady's Bible reading group. The ladies meet fortnightly while the men meet weekly.
- 24 Hours for Christ Adoration was held at the church with Benediction, Stations of the Cross and confession

- The Holy Week ceremonies went well: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.
- Catechist: Florence has taken over from Cath Cullen as Catechist coordinator. We might enrol couple more members – Norma and Gail who are interested.
- Petition Opposing proposed laws relating to Abortion in NSW – signatures were collected from the parishioners and submitted to the member of the parliament. Fortunately this bill was not passed.
- Confirmation: Classes for Public School students were run by Bro Ben and the Sacrament of confirmation Mass was celebrated by Bishop Terry Brady in the absence of Archbishop Anthony Fisher who was in Rome.
- Mother's day mass – Flowers, prayer cards and blessing was very much appreciated by the mothers.
- Audio Amplifier at the church has been repaired.
- The Dempsey Medal has been awarded to John and Shirley Wakefield. The Archbishop will make the presentation at St Mary's Cathedral during the 10:30am Mass on Sun 16th July 2017. This award is intended to recognise those people who have made an outstanding contribution in the context of their local parish.

7.2 Parish 2020 SURVEY – Carl

An email was sent to Parish2020 team May 30th for feedback on the Survey however no response received. Minh mentioned that he however received an email dated 18th May. **AP (Minh)** – to forward the email to Pastoral Council (DONE).

- Reviewing the email sent by Parish2020 team to Father and Minh:
 - 38 received indicating from St. Raphael's
 - 54 received indicating from Mater Dei
 - Further feedback, discussions and meetings will be coordinated by Parish2020 team in July.

7.3 Working Bee – Carl

Suggested minor works for the church:

- Touch up flaked off areas of front church doors (green paint provided by Br. Ben)
- Other "green paint" areas – (e.g.: electrical fuse box cover)
- Noticeboard for front entrance alcove
- Veranda timber floor – sand back and paint (brown – Br. Ben has left over paint from last time).
- Grills over side stained glass windows – repair/remount
- Review of underfloor storage area for church vs school – check cupboards etc...

This work can be scheduled for the next school holidays (July). **AP (Carl):** to discuss and arrange with “Men’s Group”.

7.4 Sunday children’s liturgy – Minh

It would be good to have a Sunday children’s liturgy for children like the successful Saturday one. Need volunteer(s) to run this. Discussion centred around how to find volunteer(s) – it was the general consensus that best to talk to parents with children that attend the Sunday service to see if they are interested in running the children’s liturgy. Michael indicated that there are Liturgy resources which could be made available.

7.5 End of Financial Year Report – Minh

Discussion that a general summary report would be worthwhile knowing and advising the broader parish community. The council resolved that someone from the Finance Committee should be asked to give an update/summary (or include a slide with the main points) for parishioners on the state of the parish finances. **AP (Father Isidore).**

7.6 Local Parish Corpus Christi procession (18th June 2017) – Minh

Discussion on how to celebrate this feast – logistics is an issue for a procession so Benediction was agreed as best approach. 30 minute Exposition to take place before Sunday Mass (commencing at 8am). **AP (Michael):** to place notice in the bulletin (DONE).

7.7 History of St. Raphael’s church - Rosie

The final manuscript has been completed and has been read and approved by Father Isidore. Estimated to be about 1 month to go before publishing commences. A printer has been chosen after 5 quotes obtained – the run is planned to be for approx. 1000 copies. A professional photographer is needed to finalise photos for the book (including for this Sunday – photo of the current parishioners after Mass). Rosie is organising but if anyone knows a professional photographer please let her know. Thanks.

7.8 Other/New Business

- Still need to be vigilant during Children’s Masses for parking/traffic situation in the school grounds.

8 Standing Item:

8.1 Pastoral Plan – to be reviewed in light of the future Parish2020 process currently underway. **AP (Carl):** in the meantime - update the current plan (to change the date to 2017 and update any obvious points in the Plan which have expired or have been completed/attended to).

9 Next Meeting

Scheduled for 7pm on **Thurs 7th September 2017**

Meeting Closed – 8.30pm