

## **St. Marie's Parish Pastoral Council**

Minutes of meeting held Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017  
In Cathedral House at 7:45pm

### **Present:**

Niall Corroon  
Leandro Martins  
Fr. Christopher Posluszny  
Hugo Teruzzi  
Josip Korbar  
Eileen Maher

### **Apologies:**

Steve O'Hara  
Moya O'Hara  
Candida Calvert

**Opening Prayer:** The opening prayer was supplied and read by Josip Korbar. The chair (Leandro Martins) warmly welcomed all PPC members.

Since the last PPC meeting, John Rodgers has decided to stand down as a PPC member. The PPC would like to thank him for all his hard work during his tenure with the PPC. Eileen Maher has agreed to send a thank-you card to acknowledge his work, and also to send a card to Tricia Hall who has also recently stepped down as a PPC member.

There were a couple of clarifications made to the last set of PPC minutes; one note was to clarify in more detail the involvement of the Sunday 6:30pm music group in the Big Thank-You celebrations. For publication of the September PPC minutes on the parish website, Niall Corroon will introduce an edit to the previously-circulated minutes.

### **1. The Big Thank-You**

The updated list of volunteers (across all areas of parish life) has been assembled by Leandro Martins. Handwritten named invites to the Big Thank-You mass have been assembled by Candida Calvert, Eileen Maher and Josip Korbar. Food for the celebration has also been organised.

Thanks from the PPC goes to the sacristan Jean Rodgers, who has done a fine job in assisting the distribution of invites to various volunteers.

There is an expected good turnout for the Big Thank-You celebration, which further emphasises the importance of the event in recognising the efforts which go into sustaining and growing the life of the parish.

Music for the event will be provided exclusively by the music group who led the music at the 6:30pm Sunday mass until recently. The PPC has requested the music group to lead the music at the Big Thank You mass as a special honour of thanks and to recognise their efforts

over their many years of service. Whilst this might be the last official engagement of the music group for some time, the whole music group are still valued members of the parish musical community.

## **2. Cathedral Website**

There was a recent issue with the cathedral website, in that it stopped working for a period in early November. Hugo Teruzzi quickly managed to switch the website account to an Amazon Web Services account, correcting the issue – many thanks to Hugo for this.

There was a note that publication of PPC minutes need to be up-to-date on the cathedral website. This should be a priority for Niall the secretary.

## **3. Parish AGM**

The PPC has recognised that it a parish AGM is due to take place. This is a requirement of our work as a PPC, and should not be ignored. The PPC AGM typically takes place in November/December of each year. In previous years, it has taken place following the 10:30am Sunday mass. The event will be advertised in advance, an offer to the parish to list agenda items will be given and a report will be provided to parishioners in advance.

In the past, the Holden Hall has been the venue for these events to take place, and it was agreed we should stick to the Holden Hall in future. Due to various upcoming events in the next few weeks, it was agreed to hold the AGM in January 2018.

**ACTION:** Niall Corroon is to compile a report of issues which have faced the PPC in the last 12 months. This report should be put at the back of church, and in the bulletins, alongside notification regarding the upcoming AGM, approximately one week prior to the AGM taking place.

The date for the next Parish AGM is 21<sup>st</sup> January after 10:30am mass, to take place in the Holden Hall.

## **4. Organ Restoration/Fundraising**

So far, over £12,000 has been raised for the organ restoration. This has been through a whole compilation of fundraising initiatives, including individual donations, concerts, and parish socials.

Parish socials are growing in success, and are also benefitting the parish by encouraging a strong sense of community outside of the Sunday mass attendance. Socials are now following a successful model, and are easier to organise.

Other successful ventures include the Table-Top sales, which are due to continue with a Christmas Market event in late November.

On the cathedral website, a MyDonate account has been set up to allow for online donations.

Much of the fundraising, whilst involving the PPC to some extent, has also been spearheaded by Hugh Finnigan and Margaret Helliwell, members of the Finance Committee who have formed the Fundraising Committee with Candida Calvert. The PPC would like to thank them for their continued efforts.

**ACTION:** As detailed above, the Christmas Market is to take place in late November, with more fundraising events to follow.

### **5. Eucharistic Ministers**

Some concerns were raised to the PPC about the relative lack of available Eucharistic Ministers to serve at various masses. There is a shortage, especially when sickness or holiday means ministers are unavailable.

It was discussed what the best method might be of attracting new members. The PPC decided to stick with established norms, which is where the priest or David Smith will approach potential candidates on a personal basis. Appointment of new ministers needs to be made carefully, particularly due to the role of a Eucharistic Minister in visiting people's houses within the parish boundaries to administer the Eucharist, or in visiting hospitals; with such duties there are also inevitable safeguarding checks to be passed.

**ACTION:** Fr. Chris has agreed to look into approaching new volunteers to take on this service.

### **6. Fr. Chris Update**

The work on the organ is progressing, with an estimated completion of the structures prior to Christmas, then a 6-month period of fine tuning the sound of the instrument to make it suitable to play. The builders are quite optimistic about the end result, and have said that the organ will hopefully sound the best it has ever sounded. Awareness of the instillation of the new organ has been spread around various parishes. Based on the progress of the 'fine-tuning', the parish will later set a date in which the organ is premiered. This event will include a religious element, where the new organ is blessed by the Bishop.

Unfortunately, Fr. Santosh will be leaving the Cathedral parish by the end of November, which will leave St. Marie's and its sister parishes with only one parish priest. Masses will not change, but additional cover will be in place until an additional curate is found. It is hoped that a new curate will arrive within the next six months.

### **7. Additional Items for Discussion**

The PPC is currently short on members, especially since two members have recently left. It was emphasised that the PPC needs to represent the diversity of interests, experiences and masses attended by our parishioners, and that a strong PPC of appropriate size is important in the functioning of a healthy parish. PPC members were therefore tasked with looking out for potential new PPC members within the Cathedral parish and inviting potential members to upcoming meetings.

There was some discussion since the last meeting on who should be invited to PPC meetings. Constitutionally, PPC meetings are open to all parishioners to attend. Historically,

representatives of different parish groups or ministries have also been specifically invited to update the PPC on recent activities and for the PPC to support their ministry/area if required. The PPC will continue to invite representatives of parish committees/groups/ministries to PPC meetings on a regular basis, often in relation to upcoming activities, events or related to PPC priorities.

In addition to this, it was decided that members of the Finance Committee should be invited to attend meetings on a quarterly basis to discuss any items of common interest. This was very successful when Margaret Helliwell and Hugh Finnigan attended to discuss the Organ Restoration Fundraising – resulting in a committee being formed and a myriad of activity taking place, to great effect. The final version of PPC meeting minutes, following each meeting, will be sent to the Finance Committee Chair to review if there are any matters of common interest.

Finally, the PPC secretary must ensure that Paul Helliwell, Parish Safeguarding Officer, receives the final version of PPC meeting minutes, following each meeting, to review any matters arising that require safeguarding attention.

**NEXT MEETING: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 7:45pm**

Future meetings (all parishioners are welcome to attend):

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April