

Parishes of St Francis Xavier and St Clare
Minutes of the Combined Annual General Meeting
Sunday 25 May 2008 @ 12.00 p.m.
Venue: St Francis Xavier Parish Hall

Present: Fr Anthoni, Fr Bob, Thomas J. Ryan, Wendy Tan, James Tan, Clare Ryan, Monica Nitz, Esmé Van Der Westhuizen, Veronika Bellis, Mike Jeffares, Leo Soulsby, Margaret Soulsby, Margaret Charles, Etienne Doraisami, M. Matheson, Pat Hall, Pat Shepherd, A.M. Diggins, John F. Roche, Mary Rossely, Myrna Hengeveld, Pat O'Brien, Sheridan Rayner, Pat Tierney, Anthony Kennedy, Angela McGovern, John and Barbara Murphy, Melissa Dalziel, Joe Arcuri, Vince Fazio, Moya Slevison, Domenico Amato, Margaret and Kevin Kirwan, Margaret Green, John Jesse, Judy Reid, Val Mooney, Gerry Mooney, Jen. Morrison, Gus Augustin, Peng Sim, Hock Hui, Dianna Hardy, Marita Frazer, Liz Allan, Sr Dorothy Renton, Elaine Boyle, Kevin McMahan, Sr Mary Barry, Bernie Millane, Michael Edmonds, Julian Sakowski, Pat Treacy, Eddie Van Der Westhuizen., Ann and Peter Leonard, Kevin McDonald, Monique Waring, Steve Hengeveld, Pat Miller, Liz Clark

1 Acknowledgement and respect to the Wurundjeri peoples

Trish Nicholson (Chair of the PPC) opened the meeting and asked parishioners to acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people – in the spirit of reconciliation and with reference to National Sorry Day (26 May 2008).

2 Opening prayer

The meeting was opened with a reading from the book of James.

3 Welcome and apologies

Apologies: Fr Ben, Pat Fitzgerald, Frank Fitzgerald, Joan Wells, Carmel Purdey, Michael Robotham, Libby Dawson, Colin Bellis, Pauline Green, Graeme Green, Jill & Greg Kitch, Betty and Vic Burns, Ben Reid, Paul Dalziel, Kathryn Fazio, Garry Frazer, Val McMahan, Philomena McDonald, Karen Nolan, Gail Amato, Vincent Amato

Trish Nicholson introduced the members of the Parish Pastoral council:

Ex Officio: Fr Anthoni, Fr Ben (absent), Fr Bob, Liz Clark, Carmel Purdey (absent), Monique Waring, Di Hardy.

Parish of St Francis Xavier: Karen Nolan (absent), Monica Nitz, Vince Fazio, Veronika Bellis, Clare Hangan (absent).

Parish of St Clare: Julian Sakowski, Jennifer Micheli, Liz Allan, Trish Nicholson.

4 Confirmation of Minutes of the last AGM for the Parishes of St Francis Xavier and St

Clare dated 3 June 2007

Moved: Julian Sakowski Seconded: Jennifer Micheli

5 Business arising from the Minutes of the last AGM

Nil

6 Annual report 2008

The Annual Report 2007-2008 for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier was tabled. Note – not all submitted reports were included in Annual Report (submitted after compilation date).

7 Reports

Chairperson (Trish Nicholson) – Parish Pastoral Council

(See attached file)

The PPC has had a youth focus: Development of St Clare basement – with further fund raising and activities planned

The PPC reflection day focused on ownership of Parish – role of PPC:

This resulted in the conducting of a Parish survey (results to be made available shortly to parishioners):

- collated results being used by PPC to set agenda and framework for aims and goals of PPC
- discussion of role of pastors
- Role of volunteers within Parish life – call to actively participate in the life of our community

Thanks to retiring members of PPC (presentation made to Julian Sakowski, Jennifer Micheli and Monica Nitz – Karen Nolan absent).

Thanks to the PPC members who will continue their role as councilors and to ex-officio members of the council for their administrative report.

Presentation about World Youth Day 2008 (Julian Sakowski)

(See attached file)

Started by Pope John Paul II in 1984 – first WYD in Rome in 1986 – celebrated every fourth year – in a different country each year.

Members of our parish will be attending WYD in Sydney – not as a parish group – but as members of other groups. Days in the Diocese will support the pilgrims coming to Australia by offering activities within the Melbourne area – a program has just been released.

Current parish promise of over 100 beds for pilgrims. Plan to hold our own parish events in the morning during Days of the Diocese.

Parish Priest (Father Anthoni Selvaraj ofm)

Thanks to:

- the staff involved in the education of our parish children: example of their commitment: Friday night's confirmation – majority of staff attended
- Staff of parish office are wonderful – helpful and supportive, keeping our friars moving - do more than just administration
- Our parish accountant – maintains accounts and reports monthly on the status of finances
- Our pastoral associate – particularly for the baptism and RCIA programs

Objective to start building works at the school in July

Continue the maintenance of the parish facilities

Works on basement and quadrangle at St Clare's – the removal of asbestos from the roof of St Clare will commence in July

Community of parish is vibrant and strong – signs of witness are very strong within the community.

Fr A expected to move on from the parish at the end of 2007 but was asked to remain for another term – he feels that he dragged his feet towards the end of 2007 (and apologises). Administration is streamlined and cost effective.

Friars seek parishioner input for the future direction of the parish – no replacements for friars available.

Displayed Parish statistics (*see attached file*)

256 school families (367 students – 93-94% Catholics)

Discontent within parish when things are done differently (or discontinued entirely) – would like to know: what are expectations of parishioners? Parish Priest needs to make changes – parishioners need to trust that he is doing his best for us and for our parish. The sense of direction is set by the results of the parish survey and by ongoing dialogue. He has distributed a survey of Mass times to contribute to the discussion.

The common life of the parish – cultural differences between St Francis Xavier and St Clare. Respecting a difference of opinion but work together to move forward.

Leadership within the parish: has asked PPC to take more responsibility for parish roles.

Parishioners need to acknowledge, and respect the work of the leaders within our community (parish staff, teachers, PPC members, liturgists, musicians, catechists).

Resources – financially stable; however numerous parish buildings that are not all utilized to full capacity. Over coming years need to decide how we wish to organize the use of our resources both at St Francis Xavier and at St Clare.

The challenges of leadership within our community – look after our leaders, work with the talents of our parishioners: discernment required in purpose and direction; to broaden active participation, church life and work.

Acknowledges the work of Fr Bob and Fr Ben – and thanks them.

Response by Trish Nicholson – thanks to Fr Anthoni and the friars for the support they give our parish. The PPC aims to promote and provide adult education, guidance and support to parishioners in the volunteer roles within parish life.

Q. Did St Francis Xavier statistics include Italian Mass?

A. Yes (generally 90-100 attendants)

Comment: support for enlivenment of our liturgies – to enhance the vibrancy of the celebration of Mass

Comment: Congratulate the council on the move towards adult education to support volunteers

Q. Are the numbers of weddings decreasing because of the tired appearance of the church?

A. Yes

Q. Is there money available to work on refurbishments?

A. Yes, an architect has been asked to provide a design brief – awaiting report.

9 General Discussion

Nil

10 Closing Prayer

Attached files:



AGM PPC Report -
Trish Nicholson.doc



AGM WYD08 report
25May08.doc



PARISH STATISTICS
TO 19.doc