

**PARISHES OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER
AND ST CLARE MINUTES OF THE
COMBINED ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

**SUNDAY: 24 MAY 2009 – 12 PM
ST FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH HALL**

In attendance: Pauline Green, Leo Soulsby, Margaret Soulsby, Jill Kitch, Greg Kitch, Mary Blundy, Trish Nicholson, Gerry Mooney, Val Mooney, Esmé Van Der Westhuizen, Mary Rossely, Frank Fitzgerald, Frank Kenna, Pat Miller, Pat O'Brien, John Jesse, Myrna Hengeveld, Steven Hengeveld, Mike Jeffares, Frank Neyland, Faye Neyland, Jen Morison, Margaret Walker, Brian Walker, Betty Burns, Vic Burns, Josie Malcontenti, Anna Scarano, Josephine Gugliemi, Vince Fazio, Ann Leonard, Peter Leonard, Joe Arcuri, Anthony Kennedy, Pat Hall, Margaret Charles, Libby Dawson, Georgina Rae, Ann-Marie Diggins, Margaret Kirwan, Kevin Kirwan, Dianna Hardy, Caitlin Hardy, Fr Ben Clowes, Rhosheen Meyers, Fr Anthoni Selvaraj, Fr Bob Matthews, Daisy Tan, Leanne Lampard, Pat Tierney, Joan Crummy, Kevin McDonald, Kevin McMahon, Monique Waring, John Murphy, Michael Robotham.

Apologies: Michael Edmonds, Bernie Millane, Paul Addison, Robert Roy, Yvonne Roy, Marita Frazer, Garry Frazer, Carolyn Gately, Veronika Bellis, Colin Bellis, Judy Reid, Chris Dawson, Eddie Van Der Westhuizen, Philomena McDonald, Gay Jesse, Vince Fazio, Liz Clark, Carmel Purdey, Raelene Edwards, Michael O'Connor, Agnes O'Connor.

Item 2) Opening Prayer

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

Item 3) Confirmation Minutes of the last AGM from the Parish of St Francis Xavier and St Clare dated 25 May 2008.

The meetings of the last AGM were confirmed and accepted.

Item 4) Business arising from the last AGM minutes.

Nil

Item 5) Annual Report 2009

The Report for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier was tabled.

Item 6) Reports

The Chairperson of Parish Pastoral Council gave her report and made the following issues:

There are opportunities for people to become more involved in the life of the parish;
Acknowledged the retiring member of the Parish Pastoral Council Ms Clare Hangan; Mr Vince Fazio, Ms Liz Allan and herself;
The success of the World Youth Day events;
The challenge of maintaining the efforts that had been made such as the St Clare's basement;
Progress regarding the school development;
Encouraged by the welcoming by the information pack which is provided to new people to the parishes;
Key events such as the :
Parish Dinner ;
Christmas lunch;
Fr Anthoni's 40th birthday and 10 years as a priest;
Fr Ben's 80th
Mass times – the survey was very useful in helping to inform the decisions that were made;
The successful Mission which was held in Feb 2009 with Fr Justin; and
Reflection Day.

Item 7) Parish Priest Report

Fr Anthony ofm raised a number of issues and achievements over the past 10 years including the following:

One parish office has resulted in more control and clearer roles for people within the parish;

Both parishes are working well together.

Costs have been reduced via reduced staff hours, however, services to the parish have been maintained;

There are a number of retirements that have occurred within recent times. Despite these retirements there is no evidence of burnout; There are opportunities to do and look at things in a new way;

Ministry within the church may need to change;

Hall is being made at St Clare's – we should seek to use this new facility as much as possible;

We don't need to spend a lot of money on churches (at this stage), the current objective is maintain a certain standard (there will be no closure at St Clares);

There is a considerable building works program occurring at St Francis Xavier; The importance of leadership within the church. Considerable leadership has been shown in many of the operational issues of the two parishes and the building projects.

Fr Anthony indicated that there are a number of issues the two parishes need to consider into the future, including:

Worship – how do we improve this within the two parishes?;

Hospitality – while this done reasonably well, we need to extend this new families;

Community – it is a healthy community here in Box Hill, however, more coordination is needed. Perhaps there is an opportunity for one to two major functions each year?

Faith formation out two parishes need further work.

Renewal

Fr Anthony referred back to the Gospel of Luke – for a renewal theme. The need for

renewal over the next few years at St Francis Xavier and St Clares is growing. Other churches (catholic and otherwise) are doing very well in this area, particularly encouraging the youth. This an opportunity for our two churches?

We need to grow and change – how do we become a functioning church in the 21st century? Another example of the need for renewal are our reports. These need to be cast in a positive forward looking manner and not looking just what has happened.

Building program

The major projects occurring at St Francis Xavier are estimated to cost over \$2.5 million. Works on the church will be delayed until mid 2010.

Music

There is a genuine need to improve and update our music program at mass times. Specifically:

Involvement of youth;

Need for more modern music – perhaps pitched more at youth participation; Further consideration at PPC meetings.

Perhaps the finance committee could advise if there is opportunity to explore employing someone to enhance the current music program?

The Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council – thanked Fr Anthony and friars for the support they provide to the two parishes.

Item 8) Comments and questions arising from the reports?

N/A

Item 9) General Discussion

Nil

Item 10) Closing Prayer