

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ST JOSEPH'S PARISH PAPANUI
HELD 27TH AUGUST 2017 – 11.20AM AT ST GREGORY'S CHURCH**

PRESENT: Fr John Adams, Graeme Wilson and 36 other parishioners - Graeme welcomed all to the meeting and Fr John opened the meeting with a prayer.

APOLOGIES: Frank & Audrey Newsome, Ken & Linlee Popham, David Holland, Robin Hart, John & Helen Dooley, Myra Barry.

MINUTES OF 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Graeme Wilson read the 2016 minutes that had been published and included in the annual report. They were accepted (Graeme Wilson/Frank Doherty/carried) and signed as being a true and accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING: The question of no existing parish council after a whole year was raised. Fr John said he had begun discussions with someone, who had put their hand up. He said there was no lack of support and meetings with the building group, finance committee and BOT. A parish council is not a requirement for the church but he hoped a dynamic and driven council would eventuate.

PRIEST'S REPORT: Fr John spoke briefly saying the parish was going well and stronger than last year. He was pleased with Fr Thanh's presence and the prayer groups that were doing well. He said the building of a new church was a much longer process than he thought it would be. Initially the diocese was not supportive of the church/school hall vision but they were 'warming up' to it, as a modern operable wall would not hinder noise levels. Plans needed to go back to the drawing board now. St Gregory's Church was marvellous to have at this time but was limited on space. The question was raised about the demolition of some school buildings and the presbytery. This would happen after consultation with the Building & Sites Committee, Finance Committee, College of Consultors and the bishop. Fr John said the process would still go ahead even without a bishop. He thanked all for attending the meeting and asked his report be adopted. (Fr John/Janette McKee/carried)

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Graeme Wilson reported that collections were down 2.5% and said there must be a way to encourage new givers. He advised the rental income had improved but expenses were up this year as improvements to these houses were made. He thanked Alan Ryder for all his work on this maintenance programme. Graeme said the building project had 'stalled a little' and in time would require financial support from parishioners. He said they were conscious of the overall expenses creeping up slightly. Graeme said the diocesan insurance was not included as this was retained centrally. He said there were still challenges ahead. Graeme mentioned more work was being done regarding health and safety issues. He was happy the parish team visited so many parishioners. He finished by thanking Fr John for his leadership, Fr Thanh, the wider parish team, Wilma and Michael Schimanski. No-one queried Graeme, so he asked for the adoption of his report. (Graeme Wilson/Tim O'Sullivan/carried)

PLANNING GROUP REPORT: Graeme spoke of the combined parish/school rebuild. After a slow start with the diocese they were happier now to look at the proposal. He thanked Aaron Richards and Wendy Skinner (both present) for their input and acknowledge two key issues; noise levels and the safety of the children. Ian Krause Architects (now rebranded IKON Architects) have been reengaged to move the building project forward.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Aaron Richards said he was happy as the new principal and it was with joy he and his family would join the St Joseph's community. He acknowledged Wendy and Fr John and the past leaders/principals for the strength and position the school has in now. He said the roll was full with 98% preference children and of that 90% were baptised showing a rich Catholic environment that parents valued. Aaron also mentioned the strong academic side to the school. He thanked Wilma for her assistance, especially re diocesan fees, and the pastoral associates. The question was raised as to what percentage of the school were Filipino compared to other schools. Aaron was unsure of this but said they were a strong Catholic respectful community.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Graeme thanked the writers of the reports and gave a brief summary of them. He said the AGM report was on the website but hard copies were available. He asked these written reports be adopted (Graeme Wilson/Wilma Vertogen/carried)

Comment was made about the lack of numbers in the Marian Group and what the future of this group was.

The late arrival of school children to Friday morning Masses was frustrating - this would be improved.

Mention was made about the inconsistency of the heating at St Gregory's Church. Turning heaters off too early was leaving some parishioners cold. This would be monitored and hopefully corrected.

A question was raised about papal awards recognising long and dedicated service by parishioners of St Joseph's Parish. Fr John mentioned that a few were 'in the pipeline'. Russell McKee had been granted an international award for the work he did for the St Vincent de Paul Society. This had been published in the church bulletin.

Mention was made that the precious blood sometimes ran out. Fr John said it was difficult to moderate this because if there was a lot left over it had to be consumed. An option was to return to receiving communion under the one form.

There was a comment about the priests always standing on the same side when distributing Holy Communion. They could perhaps try standing on alternative sides.

A member of the choir asked if more permanent lighting could be installed at the back of the church, where the choir sit. This will be looked into.

Fr John closed the meeting with a prayer at noon.

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____