

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ST JOSEPH'S PARISH PAPANUI

HELD 30TH SEPTEMBER 2018 – 11:09AM AT ST GREGORY'S CHURCH

PRESENT: Fr John Adams, Graeme Wilson and 35 other parishioners – Graeme welcomed all present and Fr John opened the meeting with a prayer.

APOLOGIES: Vonnie Martin, Aaron Richards, Irene Maguire, Liz McCormick, Wilma Vertogen, Angela McCormick, Helen Dooley, Myra Barry, Marie-Therese McRae, Fr Thanh Tran, Judy and Michael Cooper, Frank Newsome, Alan Chapman, Russell McKee.

MINUTES OF 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Graeme advised that the 2017 minutes had been published and included in the annual report. They were accepted (Janette McKee/Graeme Wilson/carried) and signed as being a true and accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING: Graeme raised some matters from the 2017 minutes, the priest not always standing on the same side for Holy Communion; Fr John to address no parish council and the status of our Church to be discussed later in the meeting; more permanent lighting for the choir raised but was less needed with choir standing in a different arrangement it again needed as singing at 8.30am and 5.00pm Masses where general lighting is lower at that time of the day especially during winter. Fr John will work in consultation with Alan Ryder.

PRIEST'S REPORT: Fr John read his report. Fr John was questioned about how many are involved in the initial forming of the parish council, and he advised that 5 - 6 had accepted his invitation for a beginning and he is hoping to add to that. Tim O'Sullivan enquired about the bishop suspending building and what does that mean for us? Fr John said the bishop sees smaller parishes as not sustainable and is encouraging bigger groups of people together. Bishop Paul acknowledges that not all priest are called to be leaders and with a smaller number of parishes we will need to work harder on small groups. The bishop sees the cathedral as a vibrant parish, with announcement on St Joseph's Parish in next few weeks, and in February/March will be bigger announcement by the bishop. We average 820 Mass count and internationally that is a smaller group with the bishop looking at 1,500 – 2,000 sized parishes. (Fr John/Tim O'Sullivan/carried)

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Graeme Wilson advised that the diocese is now reporting to the charities commission and as we are one of the largest parishes it has required more detailed information meaning a 1 page finance report is now a 12 page document. Because of our expenditure we have been audited with a good report and they noted they were impressed by Wilma's work. Finance report now includes depreciation but we can see that we are spending close to everything we receive. Expenses are relatively stable. Graeme mentioned donations are down 1.2% this year and wanted to thank the parishioners for their generous donations.

Tim O'Sullivan questioned the \$7.5 million plant and assets mentioned in the finance report, does the bishop own this or the parish? Fr John advises the bishop would need to suppress the parish in order to access our finances and he doesn't believe this will happen as the bishop is committed to working with parishes and we will be recompensed for what we own. We generally operate independently, for example, our rental income comes to the parish.

Tim commented on the 61 baptisms mentioned in report, asking about other statistics. Fr John advised the report did mention the 14 - 15 weddings and approximately 40 funerals the parish conducted.

Graeme asked for the adoption of his report. (Graeme Wilson/Helen Grofski/carried)

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Fr John spoke to the correlation of Aaron's Richards report and his own affirming the commitment of School and parish working together. He noted the addition of a Parish Pastoral Care Network.

PLANNING GROUP REPORT: Planning group – rebuild project on hold at bishop's direction. Graeme drew attention to the bishop's write up in Inform advising we have 26 parishes, 8 priests on loan, 7 priests retiring in the next 10 years and a possible 5 ordinations. The bishop is looking at the number of parishes and how they are organised.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE REPORT: George Varghese affirmed the conference continues its work in the parish with 12 members, 323 people in need. Also had a street appeal with two buckets.

CHOIR REPORT: Fr John summarised Ken Joblin's written report noting 25 regular singers, the loss of Nick Collins and Grant Bartley as organists, adding that Grant has a leave of absence due to an increased roll of being director of music at Cashmere High School.

CORNERSTONE FAITH AND LIGHT: Frances Trip added to Jos de Leijer's report advising of an upcoming fundraising drive to support people to get to the next Canberra conference.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS TO THE SICK: Janette McKee spoke to her report advising of the great privilege the team feel to take Holy Communion to 80 people and taking them newsletter and literature and make them feel part of the parish.

COUNTING TEAM: William MacManus mentioned they are keen for helpers, rostered just once in every seven weeks.

GARDENERS GROUP: William MacManus mentioned they need more people.

PPRE: Noting as in written report that 15 - 18 students attend per week.

MARRALOMEDA CHARITABLE TRUST: Sr Kathleen Rushton as chairperson expressed her gratitude for the support of the parish and volunteers. It was noted that the Marralomedas Stations of the Cross on Good Friday receive a growing crowd.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Graeme thanked the report writers and mentioned the AGM report was also available on the website. (Graeme Wilson/Lauren Butler/carried)

Grant Segar spoke of the benefits of running a Caritas Lenten programme in Lent 2019. Fr John advised he is keen to run it. Grant spoke of the St Joseph's Lenten appeal – the wonderful donations from our parish last year were gratefully noted at Caritas.

Sr Kathleen Rushton spoke of her experience at the Fr James Mallon Seminar run by the diocese on 14th September. She mentioned she went reluctantly but found an utter injection of hope – and in reading Mallon's book 'Divine Renovation' particularly the chapter titled 'Laying the Foundation' about how to transform the culture of parish community. She mentions we talk to our own people, inward looking, rather than missionary and asks is our music sending us out on mission? To be Catholic is also to be missionary. She feels quite disturbed about the theology of hymns we sing. Kath suggests making the 6 - 8 pages of book available for parishioners.

Frances Trip mentioned she was put off attending midnight Mass last year because the choir was there. Finds it elitist and too high pitch. Seem to be bringing out old songs – time to sing a new song to the Lord.

Louise Wilson, as teacher, experiences going to class Masses with Hillsong type music with actions. Fr John mentions the 8.30am Mass when the kids attend have a class Mass feel.

Tim O'Sullivan is despondent, sad that our efforts of presenting worship is not appreciated.

Marie Kelly states that you can't please everyone!

Fr John mentions he is keen for another contemporary group, musical snobbery to one side, that each Mass has a particular character, so parishioners can choose. We have tried charismatic Masses at 5.00pm previously but not many young people came.

Sr Kath is concerned about the theology of the words of what we sing, being our view of God and the world, inward looking and in gender terms leaves out half the human race. Fr John is keen to hear about concerns and will bring it up with Ken.

Myra Barry noted the precious blood runs out too soon for those at the back of the church. Fr John is not sure how we can to judge due to Mass number fluctuations, people not consistently receiving, and the problem of the excess needing to be consumed. Intinction suggested and advised no by Fr John for health reasons. Fr John suggests anyone who wishes to receive precious blood needs to get into the queue a bit earlier.

Velma Maunsell advised she finds the lighting in church dull. Fr John suggests we could look at lighting plan.

Velma also mentions handrail needed in the toilet. Lauren advised Alan Ryder is on the job as have seen him with the rail and also suggested also using paraplegic toilet as it is higher and has a rail.

Fr John closed the meeting with a blessing at 12:07pm

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____