



# St Raphael's Parish Pastoral Council

Thursday 26 November 2015

7.00 pm to 8.45 pm

St Raphael's School Hall

## MINUTES

### ATTENDANCE:

Rosie, Annette, Br. Ben, Gail, Father Isidore, Max, Carl, Chris, Minh, Michael, Sharon

Chairperson – Sharon

Minutes Secretary - Carl

### 1 Welcome and apologies

Apologies from Jan Jorgensen

### 2 Fr Isidore Welcome and prayer

Father welcomed all and asked Michael to read the opening prayer.

### 3 Previous minutes 04 June 2015

Reviewed and accepted with Sharon prime and Michael seconding.....carried.

### 4 Presidents Report

No specific report – Sharon acknowledged efforts of Council members in various activities over the past 6 months in supporting the Parish including Combined Dinner Dance event and general support.

### 5 Principals Report

- Enrolments for next year ....numbers tracking for 216 but still time for extras which will take number to overall same as this year (225). The classes vary in size and can be large – eg: current Year 6 was a large class – next year's 6 may be slightly less. Numbers following demographic trends for the broader St. George area.
- Reminder that copies of the fortnightly School Bulletin are available in the Church (tables in the centre) every two weeks – if parishioners want to find out what is happening.
- School continuing to focus on strengthening connections with the parish and encouraging greater involvement of the parents:
  - SPAR
  - School Masses
  - Social Justice (see below and also 6.1 New Business)

- Upcoming event – parent volunteers to prepare/load the St. Vincent de Paul (Vinnies) Night Van ....Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December ...assisting the homeless.
- Looking to maximise participation of parents and particularly of the children themselves eg: St. Raphael's Day ...."Kids helping Kids day"
- Other social justice activities:
  - Visiting speakers from PALMS Australia
  - School has two teachers that went to East Timor
  - Another teacher has connection with an orphanage in Tanzania – the school children recently organised a stall for fundraising for this cause.

## 6 New business

### 6.1 Social Justice Group establishment / activities / ideas

Michael gave background of how interest has been generated to form a Social Justice Group from recent visit/talk by guest speaker at Mass (Social Justice Sunday).

All agreed that establishing a "Parishioner" Social Justice Group was a good idea.

Discussion around the causes that should be supported ...suggested approach (at least initially) to dovetail in with the School's Social Justice activities as a way of engaging and getting started.

Carl volunteered to lead/coordinate – Michael suggested the bible reading men's group (which include Michael, Minh, Max and Earl) could form a core of people for the new group. Acknowledged that Adele and other parishioners are already involved in St. Vincent de Paul group.

- **Action item:** Carl to send email to Annette requesting sharing of the schools social justice action plan currently being finalised...

**Action item:** Michael to send a request to Michelle (Family coordinator at school) to place notice for parents ....upcoming parish St. Vincent de Paul hampers for Christmas.....items donated for hampers include sweet and savoury biscuits, tinned fruit, jams, nuts, jellies, tea, coffee, puddings, tarts....

### 6.2 Strategy for the two parish councils meeting schedules not to clash same night

Michael advised the next date for Mater Dei's meeting is 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Now that Michael is on board he can coordinate and make sure there are no clashes.

### 6.3 Increase transparency of the parish e.g. more communications through meetings

Agreed that 4 meetings a year for the Council is appropriate.

Rosie also indicated parishioners welcome being advised via announcements at Masses of the outcomes of events.

Also agreed that two or three points/highlights be included in the Bulletin following the meetings with also a link to the Minutes on the website.

#### **6.4 Fix up the faulty projector problem in St Raphael's – replace new projector or change to a big LCD / LED TV**

Aiming to have the projector replaced before Christmas – Michael advised one quote has already been received with two more to come. Note that the advice is that the Screen also needs to be replaced. There are a couple of technology choices to make ...pure HDMI could cost up to \$25k, however a HDMI/VGA approach is more like \$4k-\$6k.

Next on site technician visit to quote is **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 10am** – Chris is requested to attend along with Michael to discuss...best brands (BANQ ?)

#### **6.5 Have a cry room for the parents with children e.g. assign the room at the side entrance of St Raphael's**

General consensus is that there isn't enough room to have a crying room....plenty of options for parents to take children outside / verandah / under school hall etc..

Also general consensus that it is parent's responsibility to manage their children at Mass .....to that end Gail tabled a newsletter from another church bulletin which included details on Mass Etiquette ...broader than just children behaviour! ...includes the adults!

- **Action Item:** Father will review the newsletter provided by Gail and advise Michael what items from the Mass Etiquette list can be included in our Bulletin.

#### **6.6 Church safety – any guidelines? E.g. as in schools to keep away intruders**

Notice came from Archdiocese to be aware of security and safety – meeting noted that we all need to be collectively alert. Closing of school gates during Mass was not thought to be a good idea.

#### **6.7 Introduce Year of Mercy**

Important notice from Rome – introducing 2016 as the Year of Divine Mercy – Michael read from notice provided and Father advised that this is very important for our parish to be involved in. A Working Party has been set up in Australia – no detail yet – but we do know that the opening event in Rome is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> December.

Father wants us to think about how we celebrate this event and the Year in our parish. Suggestion that video (YouTube) of the opening event be played in our church as we enter in to celebrate Mass from outside.....i.e. symbolism of opening of the doors.

Michael will allocate regular space in the Bulletin for information and notice of events.

## **6.8 Christmas Party updates / Christmas in July ‘Dinner/Dance’**

Rosie provided two updates:

- Christmas in July combined dinner dance-
  - Very successful event Rosie reported previously to the parishioners during Mass who were happy to be informed:
    - 186 people attended (76 from St. Raphael’s including a table of teachers from our school – Rosie thanked Annette)
    - \$10,363 raised split 50/50 between St. Raphaels and Mater Dei
    - Rosie thanked generous support from the many volunteers and contributors that made the evening such a success. Special mention of generous donation of Efrides family of Christmas pudding cakes.
  - Planning to have this event every 2 years.
- St. Raphaels Christmas Party for this coming Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November:
  - Should be a great night – planning has gone well – everything is set
    - Tables and chairs set – thanks Br. Ben and Susi
    - Plenty of entertainment including singing by the school children and more!
    - Entry by donation only and no raffle this year as the main fundraising was the earlier dinner/dance this year.

All acknowledged the fantastic effort that Rosie especially has put in terms of leading organising, coordinating and communicating on these events and previous – thank you Rosie.

## **6.9 Finance committee to report on how healthy our finances are**

Gail reported that as a “counter” she has noticed that the number of envelopes is down. Father and Michael indicated that Finance Committee reports directly to them. At this stage there is no need to worry about the finances – however the parish always welcomes continued and increased support from the community!

## **7 Standing Item:**

### **7.1 Pastoral Plan – Visit goals not discussed previously or requiring discussion**

To be carried over. New plan to be looked at in line with 2016/17 Diocesan Plan when that comes out.

## **8 General Business**

- Max requested a call out for more Home Rosary Host Families. If this can be placed in the School and Parish bulletins please. The number of Host Families is dwindling and to ensure continuation into the future we need families willing to be added to the roster ...usually just once a year on Monday evenings....
- Jan requested via Sharon that someone volunteer to carry forward Secretary duties as she does not have the time at present. Carl volunteered as Assistant Secretary until new upcoming Council elections take place – i.e. Carl will coordinate Minutes and Agenda through Michael for distribution.
- Father thanked the Council for its work and support during 2015. Celebration supper provided – thanks Michael!
- Rosie on behalf of the Council thanked Father for his stewardship of the parish.

## **9 Next Meeting**

Schedule for next year 2016 (Michael will add these to Father's diary).

### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November

**Meeting Closed.**