Minutes of the Pastoral Committee Meeting held @ 7pm on Thursday 5 September, 2019 in the Michael Kennedy Centre at Mater Dei Catholic Church.

Attendees: Fr Isidore, Michael Eather, Michael Fernandes, Sarah Barr, Mary-Clare Ebb, Margueritte Derrig, Carl Pavia, Lucy Mitry & Wendy Eather

Apologies:

Paul Watson; Anne Melrose

Welcome given by Michael Eather @ 7.09pm

Opening prayer given by Fr Isidore @ 7.10pm

Principal’s report (Anne Melrose) given by Sarah Barr as Anne Melrose was away on long service leave.

Mater Dei Parish Council Meeting- September 5, 2019

Principal’s Report

* Janet Suchy, REC, retired at the end of Term 2. Mrs Sarah Barr was appointed acting REC for the remainder of 2019. The REC position for 2020 has been advertised, applicants short- listed and interviews will be held on Wednesday, October 16. Father Isidore and parent representative, Irene Bernard will be on the interview panel.

* First Eucharist- Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September. Sarah Barr is coordinating.

Parents are being engaged in the program through the initial parent/child information night, regular weekend Masses and the sacramental craft evening with Mary-Clare. Some school non-Catholic families will attend the ceremony for a blessing.

* First Reconciliation- Term 4 program beginning with an information evening October 16.

* Parish Hall: Sound and audio visual system in the parish hall will be replaced-quote $7,200 (school to pay). Mary-Clare would like to set herself up in the hall as a parish/school family drop-in centre. Playgroup would be set up here.

* Site Security: The school has had a sign made up for the King George’s Road pedestrian access which will now be closed from 9.15am-2.45pm. The gap in the fence near the gate will also be repaired. The Princes Highway gate has been repaired but we would like to use the regular school repairer if there are ongoing issues.

* Principal on leave: Anne is on leave for the last three weeks of term attending a principal’s conference in Scotland and Rome. During this time, Mrs Jenny Robins will be acting principal and Miss Kathryn Behn will be acting assistant principal.
* 27 September school will schedule a Parish National Rosary Day 11 October during the school holidays
* Word on Fire Parent Adult Faith Formation to be held at Mater Dei School before the end of term. Parish & school families are encouraged to attend

Parish Ministry Co-Ordinator’s Report (includes Parish Priest’s report & Youth Ministry Co-Ordinator’s Report

Parish Priest update for MD Parish Council Meeting 05/09/19 (since 16/5/19)

1. 2019 Pascal Eucharist for new RCIA candidates and family at St Mary’s Cathedral
2. Relocated Church Organ from St Raphael to Mater Dei Church and disposed off the faulty Organ from Mater Dei Church.
3. Said goodbye to Religious Education Coordinator (REC) Janet Suchy after 5 years of service at MD school.
4. Petition against “ Abortion Bill”
5. Main Gate at Mater Dei. After three visits from the Allgate tech, the gate problem was finally resolved by installing a new reflector at the gate.
6. Migrant and Refugee Sunday was celebrated with readings in various languages
7. Separate change room provided for Altar Servers
8. Sponsor a pew plaque is ready for installation (A4 size)
9. Acolyte required 2nd Saturday and readers for 1st, 2nd and 5th Saturday.

Youth Ministry Coordinator’s report (Natalie Prego)

Regular fortnightly meeting are being held at St Raphael’s on Fridays.

Update from Natalie Prego: “Average attendance is 12-15, last fortnight we had a new student which was exciting. We have started giving some of the older kids more responsibility, like running a small group, to try and get them involved and hopefully sustain the group in the future”.

Plenary Council 2020 Update from Carl Pavia

1st session is in October 2020

Carl may still attend Mater Dei Mass to talk to the Parishioners. The Pope & Bishops want to discuss the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. Bishops want to hear what the faithful are feeling & thinking. In this process if something comes out it may help our Parish. Handouts will be available at the church listing the themes to be discussed & to encourage small groups to meet & discuss. It should appeal to any Catholic who cares about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. St Raphael’s have already had one meeting of a Men’s Group to discuss. Mary Clare suggested picking a small group & select a topic & have cheese & wine to follow and set a time limit on the session i.e. 1 ½ hrs.

One Acolyte & Readers required

Michael Fernandes suggested advertising in the Parish Newsletter for Saturday night Mass at Mater Dei Parish.

Parish Renewal Workshop – Sherry Weddell’s talk

Carl Pavia talked about how Sherry mentions intentional Catholic vs inherited faith. Equips Parishes to form lay officials. It ties in with Plenary Council aims.

Parish Calendar & other items from previous minutes

St Raphael’s may host the combined Parish Christmas Mass & celebration.

Carl Pavia will ask St. Raphael’s Council Members if they would like to host this year as discussed previously.

Thursday 24 October One Parish One Mass to be held at Mater Dei School around 9.15am & following on to Todd Park afterwards.

General Business

Vacuum Cleaner & urns has been purchased by school and will be kept in storeroom & please empty after use.

Installation of Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour at Mater Dei Church on Sun 8th Sept 2019

Marguerite suggested it should be a little higher but Fr thought it was easier to reach to touch. Fr suggested waiting to see how it goes.

Fr suggested Rosary will be held at 9.30am outside in front of Our Lady’s Grotto.

Next Pastoral Council will be held on Thursday, 7 November at 7pm in the Michael Kennedy Centre, Mater Dei Church.

Fr Isidore closed the meeting at 8.38pm with a prayer.