

St Thomas Aquinas - Parish Pastoral Council Meeting - 22 October 2024

Present: Fr Gerard, Megan Winter, Michael Carberry, Margaret Hourigan, Peter Osborne, Meaghan Younger, Jocelyn Moore

Apologies: Julie Lean

Meeting commenced at 6.40pm with prayer led by Meaghan Younger.

Marymead CatholicCare Tiny Homes Proposal – The Council reviewed the Parish Assembly held on Sunday the 13th of October to discern whether this project should go ahead and felt that there was a consensus that we should proceed. However, it was also thought that an opportunity should be given to those who were unable to attend, to participate in a mini version of the discernment process. To that end, a further session will be offered before the 6.00pm Mass on Saturday the 16th of November. *ACTION:* Megan W to organise.

Further consultation is also to be undertaken with the school community by Fr Gerard and CatholicCare Marymead.

Fr Gerard will also provide an opportunity for parishioners to discuss the proposal with him should anyone so wish.

The outcome of these conversations will then be passed to Anne Kirwin by Megan Winter.

If the project gets the go ahead, a small implementation committee is to be set up to work with Marymead on the planning details.

St Johns Kippax relationship – A further meeting of the Kippax-Charnwood joint committee was held on Wednesday the 16th of October. The group has been expanded to include additional members from both Kippax and Charnwood. Currently, the membership comprises: Fr Tru Nguyen MSC, Marian England, Carl Madsen, Di Bruce, Jenny Drury, Fr Chung Tran MSC, and Jenny McGee from Kippax, and Fr Gerard McCormick MSC, Megan Winter, Michael Carberry, Rod Goodisson and Gerri Bleaser from Charnwood.

It was noted that agreement has now been reached with Kippax to have one sacramental coordinator for both parishes. Marian England is currently coordinating the Sacraments at Kippax and has agreed to take on the expanded role. Some work will need to be done to align the policies and procedures of the two parishes. Fr Gerard has already had some initial conversations with the outgoing principal of STA and Matthew Garton, the incoming principal about this.

In terms of joint activities, it was mentioned that there will be a combined St John's/St Thomas choir at the Jubilee Mass and that a new roster which would see the three MSC priests rotating through both parishes, is currently being prepared.

On the matter of youth groups, it was mentioned that St John's currently has a group in place for high school students and that it is hoped that a group for post school

leavers hosted by Charnwood can be put in place. It's a matter of finding people to run it. Both groups would be / are open to the whole Belconnen Region. It was noted that there may be a senior's group operating out of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in North Belconnen. *ACTION*: Meaghan Younger to make enquiries.

At the joint coordinating committee meeting held on 16 October, agreement was reached that there should be a sharing of events across the two parishes. To that end, it was agreed that forthcoming events should be published in both parish bulletins and that we should be aiming for a single bulletin by the end of next year.

A joint PPC meeting is also to be arranged for early next year. *ACTION*: STA PPC Chair, Megan Winter, to coordinate with SJA PPC Chair, Jenny McGee.

A joint meeting of the two parishes Finance Committees is also to be arranged.

50th anniversary celebrations – Michael advised that preparations for the Fiftieth Anniversary Mass and the BBQ, are in hand.

Safeguarding update – Margaret advised that an activity booklet for use by children participating in the Children's Liturgy of the Word group, has been prepared. It is intended that it be used twice yearly.

Maintenance – Michael advised that work on church maintenance items has commenced. Namely:

- Repairs to the Old Testament post
- Inspect Church roof for leaks
- Clean and paint external window architraves
- Repair and paint front doors of church
- Lift Crimsafe panels to enable outside of windows to be cleaned.
- Repair holes in bathroom walls
- Prep and paint internal wall on which air conditioners are located.
- Install fire safety / panic bars on church doors.

Other business

- Approval was given to go ahead with the purchase of a defibrillator. *ACTION*: Michael to liaise with Sharon to arrange purchase.
- Father Gerard raised the question of how we can go about welcoming new parishioners. In particular, there is a need for something for young families. Peter O will check with Josh and Louise to see if this is something that they might take on. Additionally, it was thought that we should hold a welcome to new parishioners' event every six months.
- Once again it was noted that some rosters, especially, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Altar Servers, are suffering. A concerted effort to attract more volunteers is to be made at renewal time next year.

The meeting concluded at 8.00pm with prayer led by Father Gerard.