

# St John the Apostle Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

## Meeting Minutes, Thursday 12 September 2024

**Present:** Fr Tru Nguyen msc, Fr Chung Tran msc, Pam Connor, Maureen Burgess, James Nield, Christian Perera, Jenny McGee (Chair), Carl Madsen (members)

Marian England, Rebecca Stevenson Acting REC (standing in for Stephanie Stewart) (Ex-Officio)

**Apologies:** May Letim, Elizabeth McDonald, Mathew Garton

- Welcome and introduction of new members
- Prayer and reflection - Marian
- Introduction to the role of the PPC. Marian introduced members to the Handbook of Parish Pastoral Councils (by Cecilia Anning), and will be discussing different parts of the handbook over the forthcoming PPC meetings.
- **Correspondence:**
  - In:**
    - Priscilla Momi - resignation from the PPC
    - Christians United Against Antisemitism - requested we distribute pamphlets advertising a rally in Canberra for the group. It was acknowledged that this could be a sensitive issue for many people in the Parish and there was a need to support all groups suffering in the current Middle East conflict. Rather than singling out one particular group or one particular conflict a suggestion was put forward that the mass on Monday 7 October would be offered for peace and an end to suffering for all peoples involved in current conflicts throughout the world. This was agreed to by other members of the PPC.

### Reports:

- **Archbishop's visit 5-7 July.** Overall, the visit was thought to be successful, with the archbishop visiting both Charnwood and Kippax Parishes and primary schools as well as holding a meeting with representatives of both Parish PPCs, Liturgy and Finance Committees. There has been no feedback from the Archdiocese about the visit.
- **Open Forum - response to questions.** Marian has received no response to her invitation for comments or further questions following the distribution of the minutes of the Open Forum via email and the information uploaded to the Parish website. Responses to the questions raised by the small groups are currently being developed and will be uploaded to the website, and emailed out to parishioners in the near future.

One member of the PPC asked for clarification of the sequence of events leading up to the Open Forum, including the meeting late last year attended by the vicar general Fr. Richard Thompson. Both Marian and Fr Tru responded. In summary, discussions between the Australian MSC Provincial and Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese commenced sometime in 2023, although Kippax msc were not informed of any specific details. Kippax msc became aware that the MSC's would take on the parochial care of Charnwood parish at the same time as Kippax Parishioners were made aware at the November 2023 meeting with the Vicar General. They were not involved in any discussions with the

archdiocese and had no prior information from the Provincial office prior to this date. The Memorandum of Understanding is between the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese and does not involve the parish office.

- Mental Health Ministry. The PPC had previously endorsed investigating establishing a new Mental Health Ministry within the Parish. Marian spoke of the communications she had been having and the workshops she had attended by the Catholic Mental Health Ministry. Marian and Carl will attend a CatholicPsych PREPARED workshop with Dr. Greg Bottaro at Narrabundah parish on Saturday 21 September.

## **AGENDA**

- Kippax/Charnwood joint committee. Fr Tru explained that a small group from Kippax (himself, Marian England, Carl Madsen) had met with a team from Charnwood (Fr Gerard, Megan Winter, Michael Carberry) to commence discussions about the two Parishes working more collaboratively. Following the Open Forum the Kippax team has expanded to include Di Bruce, John Drury, Fr Chung and Jenny McGee. This new group would be meeting for the first time on 16 October. The importance of keeping the Parish community fully informed was raised. The agenda of the proposed meeting will be made available when it's received and the minutes of the meeting are to be uploaded to the Parish website and/or summarised in KIT.
- Archdiocesan Assembly 18-20 October. The archdiocese has invited the Chairs of all PPC to the Assembly and would like at least six parishioners to attend. Any parishioners interested in attending the Assembly can register their interest at <https://tally.so/r/w8kEax>
- Parish Assembly 2 November 2024, 11:00am - 3:00 pm. The assembly will give the parish direction in formulating a renewed parish plan.
- Migrant & Refugee Sunday 29 September 2024. We look forward to celebrating the rich cultural diversity within this Parish on this Sunday. The 10:00am mass will feature our celebration with the prayers of the faithful which will be said in different languages. Members of the community are invited to come in national dress and there will be morning tea after mass.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- A comment was raised that new families coming to the Parish often didn't see a way of connecting in with the Parish community. Discussion followed on the way to best meet their needs, including looking into re-establishing 'Family Heart Groups' within the Parish.

There was also discussion around holding social events that would both help children and families to mingle and which could also be extended to involve Charnwood Parishioners as well. Suggestions included having an annual Parish picnic, holding Parish Games nights and/or a combined Parish Bush dance. This is to be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Next meeting 10 October 7:00- 8:30pm

Meeting closed at 8:45pm with the MSC prayer "The Word"