

# Minutes of Catholic Parish of Wellington South Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting

6.30pm Tuesday 22 August 2017 at St Bernard's

*Ko tātou tetahi hāpori o ngā ākonga harikoa, e whakatupu ngātahi ana, e ruia ana te karere o Hēhu Karaiti  
We are a community of joyful disciples growing together and sharing Christ's message*

## In attendance:

Stephen Neal, Joy Andersen, Penny Holden, Joe Green, John Price, Francis Fanning,  
Michael Burrowes, Owen Lynch, Tracy Gundersen.

A group of 8 parishioners from the St Bernard's community, including the school principal joined the first part of the PPC meeting.

## Apologies:

Fr David Dowling, John Whiting, Fr Dennis Nacorda,

### 1. Prayer/reflection – Joy Andersen

To help focus for the meeting Joy read 'The Bridge' – from Aotearoa Psalms by Joy Cowley

### 2. Minutes of meetings

Draft minutes of the meeting of 25 July 2017, as circulated were approved.

### 3. Matters Arising

- Social Housing Update – Draft consultation paper is being considered for costing. Once the PPC has had the opportunity to view the paper, consultation with the Parish communities will take place.
- Combined Mass planning is progressing well after a little hiccup.
- Other matters from the minutes are covered as agenda items

### 4. St Bernard's Community – An overview

- The meeting was convened in the foyer of the church.
- The committee listened to concerns identified by parishioners and the positive aspects of a small welcoming community.
- Some issues are common to most communities and include finding ways to encourage more involvement at Mass; attendance numbers dropping; an aging demographic of those participating in the different ministries.
- Concern was expressed that connection between the 2 mass communities and the school is being lost without a coordinator to draw people together and facilitate communication.
- Burden is falling on the same people to ensure things run smoothly at Mass.
- Sustainability with numbers declining is a concern.
- Growing the community across all ages and establishing a network of community members for support and to ensure rosters etc. work appropriately.
- Fixing the building to draw the families back again is a key concern. Resolving structural issues and making it possible for the school community to start using the church again will be a positive step.

- The monthly community meeting has been a very positive development.
- Joe, as LPL, is building on the pastoral presence within Brooklyn by being part of community activities such as school Masses and the community meeting.
- The combined Vigil Mass has seen numbers at St Bernard's grow and meetings with parishioners from Island Bay and Brooklyn organised to coordinate rosters and music.
- It was pointed out that a new bus service between Brooklyn and Island Bay may make travel easier next year.
- Establishing a new way forward for communities in the evolving new Parish environment is providing opportunities as well as challenges.

Stephen thanked everyone from St Bernard's for taking the time to come and share with the PPC.

Next meeting will meet at St Joseph's and focus on the St Joseph's community.

#### **5. Parish Leadership Team Update – Joe Green**

- Joe presented a statement of goals for Parish life addressing each major area of Parish life.
- The Leadership team sought the endorsement of the PPC to purchase a 'Parish App' to promote effective communication of events within the Parish. The recommendation was accepted with a reviewed to be carried out after 6 months to gauge uptake and effectiveness.
- Increasing the presence of LPL at St Bernard's is a work in progress.
- A Parish Picnic was suggested for February next year.

#### **Joe presented a report of his visit to Townsville**

- The hard work and the engaging, empathetic personality of the Parish Priest encourages a vibrant community of active participants in Parish ministries.
- Accepting that different communities will be best served by different approaches and that the buildings have a significant impact on how the Parish works is seen as important.
- Joe's comprehensive report of what he found ends with some suggestions that came from his visit.
- The full report will be posted on the Parish website

#### **6. Parish Group for 20 – 40 year olds – John Price**

- Catering for people in this age group is lacking in our Parish. John proposed establishing a group providing opportunities for gathering and coming together for activities such as coffee, a walk, a dinner. He prepared to set up the group and invite participation through the newsletter. Some names were suggested as possible support including a group from the university.

**7. Stewardship Day**

- Planning is in train for November 18.
- Preliminary notices inviting participation to go in the newsletter.

**8. Building our relationship with Our Lady's Home of Compassion**

- The desire to explore opportunities to work together and develop that relationship is strong within the PPC. Joy and Francis are keen to be part of this mahi.

**9. Mass Times**

- The PPC acknowledge concerns have been expressed about the new Mass times. There is a need to keep a watching brief on the situation, however we do need to wait until our Parish Priest is back from Sabbatical Leave for a full discussion.

**10. Finance Report - Building and Gifting Sunday Update**

- There has been a significant drop in the donations in the last 2 months compared with a year ago. This has significant implications for the Parish.
- Gifting Sunday saw 300 people filling out the forms with 77 new givers joining the Planned Giving.
- The early results of the Gifting Sunday are positive and it should be possible to have an outlook for the year ready for the September PPC.
- Decisions need to be made on priorities in allocating the remaining \$50,000 in the maintenance budget.
- The final report for SFdS has not been received however positive communications have. The SFdS Fundraising Committee has reconvened. The next step is to have a scoping report prepared that brings the building over the 67% NBS. It is also important that it takes into account effective use of the space to meet the needs of the Parish for the future.
- A condition report has been received on the building formerly occupied by the Catholic Social Services. The figure quoted to restore the building to the original 5 residential units reflects the substantial deferred maintenance over the years. While a business case is being prepared, work has been carried out to allow the former offices to be let as a housing unit and generate some income.
  - There is a process to be followed before further development can take time. A number of options will need to be considered and a balance found.
- The development proposed in the St Bernard's report that was received is unclear. It has also become apparent that there has been a communication mix up and nothing has been sent to the City Council yet regarding the earthquake strengthening issue. A bequest made for that purpose is still waiting to be used.
- Overall financial position of the Parish shows costs have been cut to the bone. A balance needs to be maintained to allow the books to balance
- The Polish Association has taken over responsibility for the St Joachim Church.

**Meeting Closed 8.39pm**

**Next Meeting Tuesday 26 September 2017 at 6:30pm at St Joseph's**

**Reflection for next meeting – John Price**

**ACTION ITEMS**

Minutes #	Who	What	When	Status
3	Francis & Joe	Social Housing Paper	Next Meeting	
5	Joe	Parish App	Next Meeting	
5		Suggestions from visit to Townsville	Next Meeting	
6	John Price	20 – 40 yr old Social Group	On-going	
7	Stephen	Stewardship Day with the Cardinal	18 November	
8	Stephen, Joy, Francis	Contact with Home of Compassion	On-going	
9	Michael	Financial Outlook for the year	Next Meeting	
9	Michael	Buildings Update		