

Bayside Mission Pastoral Council

Minutes of the meeting held at St Joan of Arc

New St Brighton

2 December 2021 at 7.30

The opening prayer was led by Fr. David Cartwright.

Attendance: Fr David Cartwright (Chair), Fr Dean Mathieson, Kristin Allen (Sandringham), Susan Athaide (Hampton), Ursula Betka (Gardenvale), Anne Larkins (Brighton), Alberto Sabato (Gardenvale), Mark Shannon (Sandringham), Michael Staunton (Ricketts Point), Jennifer Withecomb (Hampton).

Charlie Melican (Business Manager) , Lynda Rawlins (Volunteer Engagement)

Apologies: Fr James, Gabrielle Mc Dermott (Hampton), Shaun Le Grand (Hampton), Miriam Link (Ricketts Point),.

Opening Comments Fr David

Fr David offered his end of year thanks for the work and generosity of the local teams, Volunteers, Pastoral Committee and Bayside Staff.

Fr David acknowledged that it had not been an easy year and the Mission now requires prayer, support, and encouragement. It is important, he noted, that we all embrace what God wants for the future. Basic to our lives is the understanding that we are made in the image of God and built on the rock of Christ. Advent and Christmas bring anticipation and joy and the chance to acknowledge the past and move forward to 2022. However, before we can embrace the future we need to acknowledge disagreements and personality conflicts. The vision for the future is that we foster a spirit of collaboration within and between our local communities and with the wider Universal Church. This is always a tension, but we are part of a bigger picture and need to be wary of becoming insular.

In the coming year Pastoral strategies will be examined in a professional light, with fresh eyes from outside the Bayside Catholic Mission. Contributions and suggestions for strategies that have already been developed by some teams will be forwarded to the facilitators. Pruning may well be required for growth and to rebuild the community, this will necessitate input and ownership.

The Archbishop's reply to the document 'Bayside Catholic Mission (BCM) one year on' was read by Fr David.

There was a fairly lengthy discussion in relation to the Archbishop's response. Some of the issues raised included;

- That the response had been frank and honest in light of the issues raised in the letter.
- There had been little preparation for the Mission by the Archdiocese in relation to the Priests or the people of BCM.
- The vision for the future and whether there would be future consultation
- That the Bayside Mission response might mean a better start to future Missions.

Presentation By Business Manager

Charlie Melican provided an overview and presentation which included a financial report.

There were a number of significant points raised

- Brighton head office wearing a lot of the expenses which needs to be spread across five parishes.

- COVID-19 damage to the stewardship programme has been a decline of 43%. Stewardship has declined due to people moving away, ceasing participation, or moving to another parish. It was noted that the decline in direct debits is 25 to 30% while other parishes on average the decline is 15 to 20%. It was commented that despondency to the Mission has proved a factor in the decline of stewardship
- The Archdiocese did not provide any income for the merger and extra costs have been borne by the Mission.
- There has been good support from CCI Catholic Church Insurance. Frank Knight has provided a fair-based property assessment
- There was neglected maintenance in a number of parishes prior to the mission being established. The lack of maintenance and/or recognition of maintenance needs led to false profit projections.
- The BCM needs to establish what is surplus to requirements. A capital injection in order to generate income is required.
- BCM received a loan from Sacred Heart Sandringham with 2% interest.

There was then some discussion regarding Mass attendance, the need to have enough Masses and reasons for the decline in numbers. It was agreed that ideas need to be thrashed out and put on the table for next year. Incumbent on the Pastoral committee to determine the pastoral strategy of the mission.

Local Team Reports

St Marys Hampton tabled.

St James Gardenvale tabled

Saint Joan of Arc report tabled

Sacred Heart Sandringham report tabled

Nazareth parish report presented by Michael Staunton

- advent wreath workshop went very well
- electronic bell quotes are being sourced.
- Suggestion for vigil mass prior to Christmas
- Altar server drive
- Noted that parishioners have moved to Mentone due to the Mass timing.
- Need to assess the security lights for the disabled access on the lower-level, kids have been seen drinking and leaving a mess in that area.
- Nazareth parish is planning calendar events for 2022
- It was noted that we need to spread the load of the volunteers, and to replenish the numbers in the different ministries.
- Questions were raised about checking of vaccination status and whether we should be checking everyone or spot checking or trust that everyone is doing the 'right thing'
- St Vinnies hampers are back.

Development of Pastoral priorities for 2022

- Submissions have been received and will be discussed next year

Election of Office Bearers

- Chairperson Michael Staunton.
- Deputy Chairperson Anne Larkins
- Secretary Kristin Allen
- Deputy Secretary Ursula Betka

General Business

- There was some discussion regarding the distribution of minutes without the knowledge of the committee. It was suggested that the local team's meetings and the pastoral council minutes be placed in the bulletin in a simplified version of key points. The summary of the minutes will be prepared by the secretary and put on the website.
- It was requested that a separate box in the bulletin be placed for Saint James's sick.
- A form was tabled by representatives from St Mary's for the Pastoral Council consideration. This form would be used to collect phone numbers and email addresses in order to reach out to parishioners easily. This is an area of concern which was highlighted during COVID-19 when many parishioners felt isolated as they were not able to access the Parish website.
- The Christmas Mass timetable is the same as last year.

Next meeting

It was proposed that the meetings be held on a Thursday towards the end of February and subsequently every two months thereafter.

The meeting concluded at 9:08 PM, followed by a light supper.