



ST KEVIN'S TEMPLESTOWE

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Parish Council meeting – 7 March 2024.

Present: Fr Charles, Gabee Leone, Miranda Zuzic, Ana Saro, Claudia Raiola, Peter Sheehan, John Costa, Tiziana D'Costa, Pauline Erickson, Fr Isaac, Adrian Teo.

Apologies: Carmel Shiel.

Meeting began with opening prayer led by Pauline.

No matters arising from previous meeting.

Parish updates:

Parish Priest report – further discussion on the parish financial situation and possible revenue initiatives: bequests, columbarium, strategic share investment to take advantage of potential market growth in the future.

Schools – discussion on international students. At different times in the year, the schools accept international students who seek to experience school life in Australia. It provides some extra income for the school. The length of their stay varies from a couple of weeks to a term. The decision to take in international students is both a Christian and a financial decision. It is also an educational decision; the experience benefits both the visiting and the local students. It teaches tolerance, understanding and respect for diversity. International students are not counted in the school census unless their enrolment becomes ongoing.

Other items:

Agreed: the monthly reports and minutes will be posted on the website from this month. Notice in the newsletter.

Agreed: the Council endorsed the interim schedule of special collections circulated by John Costa (on behalf of the Social Justice Group) subject to any requirements that will be mandated by the archdiocese this year.

Zoom talk on the Camino by Lawrence Ceconello. Once Zoom link is set up, details will be forwarded to the schools for advertising in their community.

Pastoral Plan: discussion about the template and content of the draft pastoral plan drafted by the sub-committee (Miranda, John and Tiziana). Agreed the plan should be factual, objective and succinct. No emotive language and not too much detail. Targets should be realistic. It should contain a 'reflection' section to gauge if and to what extent targets have been achieved.

Agreed: Council members will email their feedback on the draft pastoral plan to Tiziana by 21 March. The sub-committee will collate the feedback, update the draft plan and circulate to the Council for discussion at the next meeting.

Peter and John have organised a meeting on Wednesday 20 March from 7pm –9 pm to seek input from our parish and St Gregory's parish on synodality. The input will be forwarded to the second Synod of Bishops for consideration. This event will be advertised in the newsletter at both parishes and on St Kevin's website.

Action items

stkevinsparish.org.au

1. Council members will email their feedback on the draft pastoral plan to Tiziana **by 21 March 2024**. The sub-committee will collate the feedback, update the draft plan and circulate to the Council for discussion at the next meeting.

2. Tiziana will post the monthly reports and minutes on the website from March onwards. Notice to parishioners in the newsletter.

Items for parish newsletter

1. Minutes and reports available on the website.

2. Next meeting on 4 April. Any parishioner who has a question, please contact Tiziana D'Costa or approach any of the Council members.

Next meetings: Thursday, 4 April – 2.30 pm.

Thursday, 2 May – 2.30 pm.

Parish Priest's Report 5th March 2024 – St Kevin's

1. Alpha Pilot

- a. A real success – the engagement and enthusiasm of participants is palpable.
- b. We are planning at least one, and hopefully two, full Alpha sessions during the rest of the year.
- c. For Alpha, or any other equivalent tool, to truly help us change our parish for the better and draw people into being intentional disciples of Christ Jesus then we need to commit to an extended period of using the tool to provide the experience. This takes significant effort and commitment by parishioners – to participate and then to help lead the Alpha effort. It is worth it.

2. Finances:

- a. A review of investment strategy is underway. Some recommendations have been received from HMM. The Finance group will meet later this month to review them.
- b. Expenditures are proceeding as we expected. The 2024 expenditures look set to create a deficit of \$332,000 which will need to come from growth in investments and some sale of shares/investments. This is in line with planning but emphasises the urgency of seeking to grow the parish by inviting people to come to Jesus via programs like Alpha, Landings, the School Contribution.
- c. Costs for an operations person and for a greater communications emphasis have not begun to hit the budget.

3. Communications & Operations roles and other roles

- a. Advertise operations with changed scope
- b. Looking at developing a strategy for operations.
- c. Lay Ecclesial Leader and Pastoral Worker roles at St Greg's are still being finalised before advertising.

4. Assistant Priest: Fr Isaac:

- a. Settling in: a much more complex process than I anticipated but all necessary for a person arriving in a new country / with a very different culture and language.
- b. Excellent pastor in my estimation and from comments people are making.

5. Holy Week Planning: going well. All seems to be coming together. The Liturgy Group is again doing marvellously but we need to grow the group and add some new skills/gifts/energy.

- a. St Kevin's Easter Vigil will begin with there still being quite a lot of light because daylight saving doesn't end till Easter Sunday morning.

6. Holidays: My holiday will be from 27th May to 17th June this year. Domestic travel/sightseeing with friends / family.

- a. Fr Isaac will do much to cover daily Masses and funerals and such. Sunday Masses are already provided for with supply priests (Fr Gerry).

Lay Ecclesial Leader Report – March 2024.

Strategic planning - vision and mission.

Lent 2024

I offered a reflection at the school masses on Ash Wednesday. It was well received by the children; it is good to see the children engage enthusiastically with Lenten themes.

I am running the Lenten program on Thursdays after Mass. There is a regular and committed following. The discussions have been interesting and heartfelt; the program has provided a great opportunity for faith sharing and to support one another.

Stations of the cross is offered on a Tuesday before Mass. By changing to an earlier time, Ana has enabled more people to attend.

The liturgy group is busy preparing for Holy Week. We are aiming for greater involvement of young people especially during Good Friday service. We are meeting again this week to finalise details.

Alpha Pilot

*What is Alpha? **Alpha** is an opportunity for people to share a meal, ask questions about important matters of life, faith and meaning and, in the search for the answer, come to know Jesus and grow closer to God.*

On Thursday this week, we will run the last session of the Alpha Pilot. It has been a very successful program. We have received a lot of positive feedback from participants. We have had a regular attendance pattern of about 20 people each week.

The pilot has given us invaluable insights about the organisation and running of an Alpha program, the themes explored and how to facilitate the small group discussions. We are looking at running the program fully later in the year.

I am especially grateful to Mary Ryan from the Archdiocese's Animation Team for all her support.

Landings

*What is Landings? **Landings** offers a safe space for those who have disconnected from their faith to share their experiences. The informal meetings over a coffee and cake are all about compassionate listening: to welcome and encourage people to reengage with their faith. The meetings are run by lay people.*

The program started on 21 February. We have currently two participants undertaking the program. We have not run Landings before, so – like Alpha – we are learning a lot about the organisation and running of the program as well as the themes that are explored. It is a worthwhile program. There have been great discussions and faith sharing by the participants. However, whether it will continue to run in the future is dependent on the commitment of volunteers to do this without the support of Ana and me. Due to limited resources in the parish office, Ana and I are not able to be involved in the long term.

Parish Contribution – school families

Last week, we emailed the St Charles Borromeo school families seeking a contribution to support the parish. This is a yearly voluntary contribution of \$160 per family to support the work of the parish for the schools and the community and to invest in the future of our community of faith. We plan to reach out to the St Kevin's school families this week or next week as soon as we receive the current contact details – unfortunately, the school has been impacted by IT issues.

Tiziana D'Costa

5 March 2024

Report of the Acting Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council – March 2024

The sub-committee working on the Pastoral Plan met on 27 February. They finalised the template and drafted a skeleton plan for discussion at the Council meeting in March.

Peter Sheehan and John Costa have been busy organising a response to the Australian Bishops Conference regarding synodality. They are reaching out to the parish community for parishioner consultation and involvement. There is some interest from St Gregory's parish to become involved in this process.

I invite any Council member who may be interested to approach me or Fr Charles regarding the position of Chairperson of the Council. I have been filling the role of acting Chair for over a year now, when this was only meant to be an interim position.

If you have experience leading a group, or would like to get experience, please reach out to me or to Fr Charles for a chat. Support and encouragement will be in plenty supply.

Tiziana D'Costa

5 March 2024.

PPC Meeting

DATE: 07/03/24 **St Kevin's School**

Theme for 2024 The St Kevin's Theme for 2024 is Let's Care! Be the Difference!

We developed 4 possible themes as a staff and then voted. Our students and parents also got to vote and this received the top vote.

Enrolment

Update

We welcome Azalia (Year 2), Noah (Year 3), Emily (Year 4) and Sebastian (Year 4) as well as all the beautiful preps. All have settled well and are very welcomed.

Kinder visits I have visited 24 kinders and especially would like to mention Templestowe Kids. We will be working closely during the coming months. The Year 3/4 students are visiting them for shared story time on Thursday.

Baptisms A year 3 student's family has approached us about Baptism.

Staff Update Tina Minichilli is finishing her work at St Kevin's at the end of Term 1.

Cathy Pondeljok is commencing work at St Kevin's Mon-Tues. She will continue her role at St Charles Wed-Friday.

Student

Captains and

FIRE Carriers

This year all the Year 6 students hold Leadership positions and the FIRE Carriers were commissioned at the Ash Wednesday Mass a few weeks ago.

Welcome BBQ Looking forward to Welcome BBQ Thursday afternoon.

Professional

Learning

St Kevin's, St Charles and St Greg's will be having a Closure Afternoon on Thursday the 28th of March. Staff will be coming together on that afternoon to focus on learning about Spirituality. This event will be hosted by St Gregory's.

ST CHARLES BORROMEIO CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thursday 7th March 2023

Item Action

School tours Well under way- many enrolments for Foundation 2025 are coming in.

Fortnightly Marketing Meetings

International Students Recent influx of students wanting a short term learning experience at our school. This has been a wonderful opportunity to build our student's social and emotional learning.

Welcome Morning Tea Last week we held a welcome morning tea for our community to come together and celebrate the 2024 school year- a wonderful way for us to build community.

Botanical Gardens

Excursion

Whole school excursion with a wellbeing focus.

Parent/Teacher/Student

Interviews

Being held Tuesday next week- a great opportunity for Students and Teachers to share learning which has taken place and also for parents to share information which will support their child's learning.

St Patrick's Day Mass Student leaders from St Charles, St Kevin's, St Greg's and St Peter and Pauls will be attending together.

28th March St Charles, St Kevin's and St Greg's will be having a school closure day. Staff will be coming together for a follow up on our Spirituality Day which was held at St Charles in 2024.

Pastoral Worker Report

- Reconciliation Reflection Day tomorrow 10am to 2.30pm. There are only 8 students from St Kevin's and 7 catechist children. The permission letter has been issued and returned by Catechist families. Email sent to the schools excusing the children from their normal classes. Liaised with Nadia and stoles ordered. Try Booking set up – keeping Fulvia informed as to who has paid. Third reconciliation class has needed to be organised as the catechists were ill prepared for the class – i.e. one student did not know that she was Catholic and did not know who was Jesus.

Workshop next Wednesday evening and the Celebration of the Sacrament on the 21st March at 7pm.

Candles organised.

- Landings Program has commenced – 2 people have signed up. A few adjustments have been needed but otherwise the program seems well received.
- Alpha – continue to participate in the Pilot Program – very rewarding.
- Book morning Tea's to be moved to Thursday mornings after mass- starting next week.
- Baptism Preparation classes are going well – met with 2 families whose Baptism masses are fast approaching.
- Youth Group – slow start this year with only 10 children BUT heaps of fun! Especially enjoyed seeing the new youth Leader Charlotte jump into the basketball game with the kids – swiftly followed by Isaac!!
- Home visits continue – try and visit at least 2 families a week.
- Nursing Home – continue the 11am prayer service – have 15 residents attend each week.
- Stations of the Cross very well received – there were 12 participants this week.
- Safeguarding – extra meetings to review the self assessment report before we send in to Brech at the archdiocese. Obvious need that has arisen is to ensure that before any big event a risk assessment is done and then REVIEWED.
- Altar servers – fantastic to see there are now 3 lovely boys for the 5.30pm mass each Saturday night and Patrick to do Sunday 10am mass. I will alternate each week so to assist and supervise the children.
- I am starting to put together a plan for a Children's Playgroup – watch this space!!

SJA report to PPC meeting 2:30pm 7 March 2024.

1. SJA Committee Members agreed at our last Meeting that tenure of office bearers for the SJA committee would run for 2 years after which members can re-apply for positions, next in 2025.
2. Archdiocese advice on Special Collections / Observances was again very late this year for 2024, so for timing reasons SJA already instituted a draft Second Collection program in advance for 2024, subject to possible adjustment where required, but otherwise based on the collaboratively & widely agreed/supported 2023 program.
3. The archdiocese subsequently and unexpectedly proposed a new and different approach for second collections, starting August 2024. The plan is to have one consolidated Archdiocese managed collection "The Archbishop's Campaign" over a two week interval in August, the proceeds of which will then be distributed to 5 designated charitable institutions (Priests Retirement Foundation, Corpus Christi College, Catholic Theological College, Melbourne Overseas Mission, John Pierce Centre)
4. While awaiting further advice on details from the archdiocese SJA has therefore titled its 2024 2nd Collection Schedule an 'Interim Draft' 2024 2nd Collections Schedule..." (attached), and SJA has internally deliberated on the proposed new AD scheme.
5. Following detailed discussion on all the issues involved it was decided by the group to propose to the PPC that while taking into account the new Archdiocese scheme when details are fully announced that we currently proceed for now at least retaining our well supported and financially successful, local, open and transparent current program as is, adjusted to accommodate the 5 Archdiocese nominated charities, and re-assess the schedule when details are clarified by the archdiocese.
6. Considering current and upcoming events (early Lent / Easter this year, and other concurrent parish activities), it was determined to reschedule a number of previously planned SJA events, including El Camino Zoom presentation is now 17th April, 7:30pm – 8:30pm (Zoom - see attachment). This will also be offered to 'neighbouring Parishes'.
7. Similarly the planned Zoom St Vincent de Paul Values and associated Programs they motivate is already agreed by St VdeP and we are negotiating presentation timing. Due to another unexpected (& excellent) external presentation on the issue of Asylum seekers by (90 yo) Sr. Brigid Arthur on 27th Feb (to be made available online shortly from our SJA Webpage), the previously arranged SJA presentation by Emma Costa on supporting Refugees will also now be deferred to later this year. For reasons of presenter impartiality, Tiziana has kindly agreed to Chair this session on behalf of SJA.
8. SJA members are currently considering very brief (2 minute) occasional Presentations at

selected Masses in advance of these Zoom 7:30pm – 8:30pm (or live) presentations. Beyond generous 2nd Collection giving and attendance at specific events, and positive feedback to donors from recipients, but noting parishioner age profile, we remain uncomfortably conscious of minimal SJ direct involvement otherwise by Parishioners in practical engagement of Church 'Mission'. For now we continue to explore this situation and possible opportunities in this regard, for various age-groups including school families)

J.Costa SJA Report to 2024 PPC Meeting 7 March 2024