



ST KEVIN'S TEMPLESTOWE

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Parish Council meeting – 1 August 2024.

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

Apologies: Margaret Turner, Carmel Shiel.

Meeting began with opening prayer- reflection led by John Costa.

No matters arising from previous meeting.

1. Welcome to David Hi – parish business manager.
2. Questions arising from Reports
 - a. Fr Charles:
 - i. school children ask wonderful questions: 'who were God's parents?'; what is your favourite book? These questions start up great conversations.
 - ii. Safeguarding: new rules mean there is a presumption of liability. This highlights the importance of being ahead of the curve when it comes to our safeguarding obligations and encouraging a culture of safeguarding in the parish. The new rules require people who work with children to also have a police check. The parish will organise a formal induction for volunteers.
 - b. LEL
 - i. Liturgy survey being drafted to gauge where the parish is at in terms of worship, hospitality, reaching out to others. The survey will be distributed among people who are involved in ministries. This will assist parish planning to improve the experience of parish life and worship for current parishioners. Initiatives such as Alpha aim to reach out to people who are no longer involved or have walked away from the church or for non-believers.
 - ii. What we learnt from the Brisbane conference last year is reflected in aspects of being a welcoming parish: for example, the importance of music in worship (we are looking for a musician), environment (eg improved cleaning and maintenance).
 - iii. The schools and parishes will work together to reaching out to school families.
 - c. St Kevin's Principal – discussion about international students. Despite the language and cultural differences, the students and their families appreciate that they are in a faith-based education system. They like the strong feeling of belonging. They are at the school between 4 to 8 weeks. They show an interest in being part of the school community in all its aspects.
 - d. Social Justice Action:
 - i. the timing of the archdiocese – run collection in August clashes with our schedule of special collections. Agreed: we support the archdiocese initiative, but we will continue to run our own scheduled charities throughout the year. These are in addition to the ones covered by the archdiocese to avoid duplication.

- ii. Families in need – there is some money in the social justice fund for needy families (\$670). Agreed: we should schedule more regular collections for needy families throughout the year. This year, there will be a collection in October over 3 weekends.

3. Parish Pastoral Plan

- a. The plan was endorsed by the Council. It is a living document which will be updated regularly. It will be added as an ongoing agenda item.

4. Other items:

- a. Proposal to reword certain roles on the liturgy roster – John Costa. Postponed for next meeting.

5. Action items

No items.

Items for parish newsletter

The meeting took place today. For more information, see the parish website.

Next meeting: Thursday, 5 September – 2.30 pm.

Subject: PP's Report for PPC meeting 1st August

Good evening all,

Here are some meanderings about what's been happening in our parish recently:

6. The Alpha Experience is progressing well and I am hopeful that we can continue it for the indefinite (5-10 year) future and maybe beyond. That will depend on getting people enthused to take up leadership: I anticipate this will happen but not sure on how fast.
7. We need to be forming an intentional effort to create additional places
8. I have requested a discussion with the school principals (mentioned by Miranda) to look into ways we can engage with school parents/families beyond (more explicitly) what we already do. I know that's not easy but ... we must work with them. Possibly a discussion with Fr Mark Reynolds at St Clement of Rome may be useful at some point as he is making his biggest effort at evangelisation an effort through the school there (or so he has said to me).
9. Business Manager: going well so far (thank you David).
10. Stewardship: we are planning this (well, David is with discussion with lots of others. Both St Kevin's and St Greg's will do this in October.
11. Safeguarding: a recent amendment to legislation basically says that if there is an allegation against the parish for some reason relating to safeguarding children, then it is presumed that we are responsible in some way unless we can provide evidence to prove on the balance of probabilities that we did everything we could to prevent any problems in this area.
We must show our innocence. Not unreasonable in this sort of area but certainly it confronts us with a need to be very well ahead of the curve in such matter.
12. Second Collections: The archdiocese has plans for a centralised collection for a lot of organisations – in August. We plan to follow this as diligently as possible, even though it cuts across our planned collection efforts. We will see how things go.
13. Q&A with school children. I am continuing (indeed have been expanding) my times spend with the children in St C / St K / St G, allowing them an opportunity to chat, to ask questions important to them (often about faith / Mass / religion, but also like today (31/7) about anything and everything from my favourite book / film / music to the importance of fairness in sport / competition. These are valuable discussions – priceless I'd say, as they link life to faith, even if only generally sometimes.

I think that's all. Probably a few things forgotten.

God bless,

Charles

[Lay Ecclesial Leader Report – August 2024.](#)

Strategic planning - vision and mission.

Alpha

*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.*

We are almost at the end of the first full Alpha program run together with St Gregory parish. The final session is on 8 August.

As part of the program, we ran a Day Away retreat at Holy Cross on Saturday, 13 July. We received great feedback from the participants.

The program has gone well, we have several volunteers who are supporting us. The feedback from participants is positive, and friendships have formed.

The aim of Alpha is to bring people closer to God; when the program is successful, it translates in more people wanting to be active participants of our parish community. We saw this happen as a result of the Alpha pilot we ran in February- March this year. Some participants in the pilot are now volunteers, and team leaders. Others have stepped up to help more in the parish or take a more visible/active role.

It is still early days in our Alpha journey as a parish, but it is a very promising start.

Parish Contribution – school families

We have contacted the St Kevin's School and the St Charles' Borromeo school families. This year's response is better than last year's; the amount collected to date is \$1,920

Business manager – St Kevin's and St Gregory's parishes

David Hii started as business manager at the end of June and has hit the ground running with great enthusiasm and professionalism. David is already proving to be a great addition to the office. I look forward to working with David in the future.

Liturgy Survey

I am working with Carmel Purdey (as part of Fr Charles' support group) on a survey on the liturgical life of the parish. We plan to ask parish leaders to answer the survey. The aim is to find out where we currently stand in terms of parish engagement and how we can improve to bring us closer to our vision of a vibrant, vital and viable community of faith.

School – parish communication

From July 2024, highlights of parish news are published in the St Kevin's School newsletter every fortnight. Similarly, St Kevin's School news are published in the parish weekend newsletter. This is an initiative to foster better communication and understanding between the two communities. Thank you, Gabee and Ana for making it happen.

Tiziana D'Costa

Pastoral Worker PPC Report August 2024.

Sacramental Program.

The First Eucharist Sacramental prep starts in August for the sacrament in October. The catechism program currently has 16 students enrolled. There are total 29 students – 13 from St Kevin's, no students from St Charles.

Baptism Meetings continue but from July the preparation meetings will be held on a Tuesday afternoon rather than a Wednesday evening.

Safeguarding.

Continue with quarterly meetings with the Parish Reference Group- great tom network with other Parishes.

Monthly Safeguarding team continues .Parish Self Assessment Tool has been completed and submitted to Fr Charles & Brech to look over. Risk Assessment meeting with St Greg's and Brech from Safeguarding Unit is scheduled for Wednesday 31st July. Currently doing the data entry onto Pacem for all the WWCC.

Home Visits & Nursing Home Visits.

Continue visiting 3 nursing homes a week and try to visit at least 1-2 homes a week. The Parish put on a very lovely afternoon tea for all the volunteers who donate their time each week to go to nursing homes. The meeting was attended by all the volunteers plus Fr Charles and Tiziana. I took this opportunity to have a chat about new guidelines in safeguarding and will be meeting with all the individuals to make sure there are no issues and they feel well supported.

Youth Group.

We continue to have very energetic and happy monthly meetings. We average at approx. 15 students. Attended the Archdiocese for a Youth Group formation day – very informative. Have enrolled on another development day on Saturday 27th July.

Playgroup.

Attended playgroup in Boxhill and spoke at length with the Playgroup leader. Goal is to start a Playgroup at St Kevin's by beginning of Term 4. Had a very successful meeting with Gabee- principal from St Kevin's. She is going to provide an LSO each Monday to work with me to run the playgroup. Toy drive at church going well – will liaise with school to have afternoon with student outreach team to help sort through all the toys, clean and organise.

Godstart & Birthday Cards.

Birthday cards very successful – everyone loves to feel acknowledged on their special day!

Bereavement Team.

We remain very busy – with a funeral practically every week. a lot of positive feedback from the school and the guests – that they appreciate the system of carpark helper!

St Kevin's School Principal Report 01/08/24

Grandparents and Special Person Day

Last Friday at St Kevin's, we celebrated grandparents and special person's day in our community. We commenced with a Mass at 9:15am to thank God for the privilege of having such wise and loving people in our lives. Following Mass, the grandparents were invited into their grandchild or children's classroom to complete an activity. At 10:45am, the grandparents or special person shared morning tea with their grandchild/children. It was a delightful day and students describe it as the best day of Term 3!

International Visitors and Concept of Diversity

The international students from Eastern parts of China have arrived at St Kevin's. They have joined our Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 classes for different periods of time. The students will be with us from anywhere from four to seven weeks. This term the whole school is working on the concept of Diversity. This is an amazing opportunity to share cultural experiences and learn about China while sharing our own culture with these students. It will provide rich learning experiences for all students and a great opportunity to develop new friendships.

Annual Review Meetings

ARM (Annual Review Meetings) dates and structure has been shared with staff. Teachers will select an area of learning and set goals in that area. They will mark themselves against the AITSL rubric and then meet with me to share their learning at the end of Term 3.

Turn off Teasing

It has been noted in different forms of feedback coming from students, parents and staff that there has been teasing on the yard and in the classroom. After conversations at Leadership Level and then discussion with staff and students, it was decided that firstly we collect data and side by side develop a program based on research (The Watson Institute), Victorian Curriculum and with a faith perspective. So all the students have completed the surveys. The juniors completed the survey with the support of Mrs George and their class teachers and Learning Support Officers. The Seniors completed a slightly more complex survey with similar support. Each level has allocated a structured lesson each week to this area, alongside just in time conversations when it is noticed or reported. I really look forward to hearing about the actions that come from this learning and continuing to build respectful relationships in our school.

Parish and School newsletter

St Kevin's Parish is adding an item to the Principal newsletters and I have added an item to the Parish newsletter.

Student Teachers in Term 3

We have three students from Australian Catholic University in our school for the next 7 weeks.

St Charles Borromeo School Principal Report 01/08/24

Staff on long service leave

We have a few staff currently on long service leave and away on overseas trips. One staff member is on maternity leave. I will be taking long service leave for all of September.

First Aid training

Our students took part in First Aid training on the 15th July (first day back this term).

International students

Across our school we have many international students joining us this term.

Principal and Parish Priest Meeting

The focus of our upcoming meeting will be looking at our parent community and how we can engage them in faith. Principals will bring along the school's Annual Action Plan to help guide common focus among our schools.

Kinder relationships

As part of our ongoing marketing this term we have local kinders coming on excursions to our school, activities planned with kinders and an afternoon tea where kinders teachers are invited to come and visit our school.

Interschool Sports A fantastic win to our soccer team who are on to the finals!

Learning and Teaching Network

On Thursday 1st August our school will be hosting the Eastern Region Learning and Teaching Network. This will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase the exceptional learning and teaching which has been taking place at our school.

St Kevin's Parish Social Justice Action Report to PPC Meeting, 1 August 2024

(Update on report for the previous cancelled PPC Meeting)

1. Winter Coat/jumper/blanket Drive for Refugees via Catholic Care Vic.

The last of (smaller than previous) three batches of high quality (and in some above cases directly drycleaned or laundered by a parish volunteer) was delivered on 19 July to Catholic Care's Dandeong Office, where I was also introduced to various Catholic Care Leaders. Without exception they seemed

much more than “just doing a paid job’ but personally committed by their faith values, highly qualified, very capable, and passionate. All the clothes have now been directly and efficiently received by appreciative refugees around Melbourne, Geelong and Ballarat. In the course of exploring possible voluntary engagement with Catholic Care (as they are no longer funded by CAM), we were able to arrange for them presentation to groups of refugees by an empathetic pro bono lawyer from Refugee Legal, about what to expect and how to best utilise pro bono lawyers in progress in their necessary and complex immigration papers. The lawyer concerned was first prompted to become a refugee lawyer as a Secondary School student after attending a St Kevin’s Social Justice event on refugees, arranged at the time by Fr Gerry.

2. Weekly Engagements with special need persons

Two

illustrations of persons recently visited are instructive. One person with particularly low self-esteem, not in best health, and living alone, was candidly photographed (very well) at a happy selected moment in a coffee lounge after uncharacteristic shave, haircut, beard trim and fresh, bright, clothing selection. The person was so amazed to see what was actually a very impressive photo (uncharacteristically looking like a successful & confident academic!) that he seriously asked whether it had been “touched up” - which it hadn’t! This simple photo provided a noticeable boost, and lesson on importance of self-esteem. The 2nd illustration is a young person (also Catholic) extremely on The Spectrum, living in a large family home with a sibling just out of prison, both hating one another while in a strange way actually somewhat mutually supportive, and in particular supportive of shared strong care for their ill, minimally mobile elderly mother at home with severe dementia, requiring round the clock full care. The visit temporarily neutralises sibling antagonism (which if it isn’t sad can at times also be very funny to an outsider). Another parish regularly brings communion.

3. Further to 80 + Y.O. former Parishioner urgently requiring accommodation,

The elderly

lady (Elaine) was formerly a very active long standing member of St Kevin’s knitting group, having to vacate simple rental accommodation in Croydon. St Kevin’s and in one case St Gregory’s parishioners have been very supportive with suggestions, offered temporary accommodation, and financial assistance if required. Having laboriously worked through multiple agencies and groups in vain there’s at long last an encouraging possibility on the horizon of suitable Croydon accommodation (awaiting update from Pat Rowland).

4. Recent 2nd Collections

Some Recent 2nd Collections: The parish recently received appreciative messages for \$447.75 contributed to Catholic Mission, and over two weekends for \$984.40 contributed to Pope Francis's annual 'Peter's Pence collection for those in need. While we don't yet have details for 2024, last year this global campaign raised €48.4 million, funding 236 Charity projects in 76 countries. The CAM ‘Archbishop’s Campaign’ to be launched on August 17-18 will require existing Parish arrangements for 2nd Collections to be reviewed.

John Costa