



ST KEVIN'S TEMPLESTOWE

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Parish Council meeting – 10 October 2024.

Present: Fr Charles, John Costa, Tiziana D'Costa, Pauline Erickson, Adrian Teo, David Hi, Carmel Shiel, Michelle Cameron, Fulvia Gerosolimo, Peter Sheehan.

Apologies: Ana Saro, Claudia Raiola.

Meeting began with opening prayer- reflection led by Margaret Turner.

Discussion arising from previous meeting. Discussion about increasing mass attendance. By invitation, other engagement is needed eg Alpha. Impact of Covid on church attendance – sense of obligation has changed. Sense of belonging can foster an interest in coming to church. There is distrust in the institution of the church which has made people turn away. Mission work: outreach, making disciples are all important ways to reach out.

1. Questions arising from Reports

- a. Fr Charles – Fr Isaac is leaving the parish. He will be chaplain in 4 major Melbourne hospitals and will live in Footscray parish to make it easier to engage in this ministry. It's likely he will continue to provide supply for St Kevin's next year.
 - i. New lectionary NRSV translation – inclusive language. The office is working to ensure there is only one source we get the readings from.
- b. LEL - prayer groups and bible study groups planned for next year, but they need a lot of care, and we need capable leaders to run them. Need to find like-minded people in other parishes we could partner with. At Bulleen parish, they are planning bible study groups for school families.
- c. St Kevin's Principal.
- d. St Charles Borromeo – enrolments for next year still being finalised.
- e. Social Justice Action
- f. Pastoral Worker – Initiative to set up St Kevin's Conference at St Vincent De Paul welcomed by Council members.

2. Thanksgiving campaign

- a. Update on the thanksgiving campaign progress. Asking current donors to review their giving, if not giving, we are asking them to pledge a regular donation. Maybe need more information about choosing contribution between presbytery and church contribution. And from what date the deduction is made.

3. Other items:

- a. Leadership group – purpose of the group to work with Fr Charles as a think tank. The group does not make decisions, it comes up with ideas. It's the same group as was called 'support group'. The group meets often several times a month and works intensively to think of ways to enliven the parishes. Discussion about calling this a 'leadership' group. There's more consensus amongst the Council members to call the group 'support group'.

4. Action items

Set discussion about encouraging mass attendance at next year's first meeting.

Items for parish newsletter

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

Next meeting: Thursday, 7 November 2024 – 2.30 pm.

Parish Priest Report – October 2024

A few things:

1. Most things I might say will be covered by others:
 - a. Alpha: Deferred – Tiziana will explain reasons.
 - b. Thanksgiving campaign – David can discuss
 - c. New musician: Emma – Tiziana will expound
2. RCIA: this will be running with one family (from St Gregs) as catechumens – if there are more interested you know of please let me know. Starts 12/10 at St Greg's 3 pm.
3. Fr Isaac: will be finishing up with us and moving to be chaplain for four public hospitals in Melbourne city area. Timing is not 100% clear but late November likely.
This will mean we will continue with the fortnightly supply approach which we have been using – with the hope / plan that we will make use of Fr Isaac for some of the weekends.
4. Coptic Catholic Mass: great success many St Kevin's people went along. It was my first eastern rite Mass – very interesting – quite long (1.75 hours) but that was the short version as a full Mass usually takes 3 hours and a high-Mass four hours – mostly sung. There were about 200 people in total half Coptic community and half parishioners with about 30% St K / 70% St G.
5. Ordination of Tuong Nguyen (Jude) – 27th October – all in order.
6. Advent / Christmas services / Masses have been finalised. Times are available via Nadia or me.
7. Liturgy group:
 - a. Translations:
There has been some concern and confusion about the inclusivity of language used in the Jerusalem bible which is the translation used for our readings on the weekend.
After discussion, I have purchased a large and a study copy of the New Revised Standard Version lectionary and we will see if using this (which is approved by the bishops of Australia, and is available via the Break Open the Word weekly readings resource) will help us have a more inclusive experience of God's Word at Mass.
 - b. Planning for Advent / Christmas – this will begin in earnest at the next meeting.
8. Safeguarding – Ana reports on this but I want to present my thanks to her and to David and the joint parishes safeguarding committee for the excellent work they are putting in to get us well along the track of being implemented fully (we can never really be fully implemented but we can be nearly there).
9. Take the Way of the Gospel: the workshop by the archdiocese was informative and the tool they have prepared to help guide parishes through a shift towards being more explicitly and intentionally 'missionary / people who bring others to Jesus' is quite friendly and useful.

I think that's all – but who knows – the month passed very very quickly.

God bless,
Charles

Lay Ecclesial Leader Report – October 2024.

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 have decided to reschedule Alpha that was planned for October-December due to low numbers. It was not an easy decision. We considered it carefully. We had 9 confirmed participants; we felt this is not a sufficiently large number to ensure a fruitful and life-filled experience for all. We have rescheduled Alpha for early 2025 (Feb/March) with every intention to make it a bigger and better experience for all.

We have a terrific volunteer Alpha team. This is made up of the hospitality team and the facilitators team. All our volunteers have experienced Alpha and are willing to take up the call to bring the program to others. In November, I will accompany the facilitators team to an Alpha Catholic Conference for leadership formation. We hope to learn how to become a more invitational parish so that it will be easier to promote and run Alpha in the future.

My role is to help with training and formation of the facilitators team, to coordinate and manage Alpha in all its aspects, and to plan and prepare all the materials for each week. This is a process of constant improvement as we learn more about the program each time. I want to acknowledge the help of all our Alpha volunteers and office staff across the parishes, especially Margaret O'Donnel from St Gregory parish for her invaluable support.

New Musician

We have a new musician, Emma Vu, who is supporting Jan Sheehan and will play twice a month. Emma has experience playing in other parishes and is a highly skilled keyboard player. Emma will play for the first time at 10 am on Sunday 13 October, and again at 10 am mass on Sunday 20 October. Please make her feel welcome.

Thanksgiving campaign

I thank David for his commitment and enthusiasm in getting the campaign up and running. It is no mean feat. The launch last week went very well.

On the weekend of 12/13 October I will speak at the three masses in support of the campaign.

Advent

We are offering the Advent program again this year. I had a small but loyal following last year. I received feedback that 9.45 am did not suit many people. I am considering trialling a new start time of 8.30 am on Thursday so the program can finish in time for 9.15 mass. Any ideas or suggestions are welcome.

Bible study group/prayer group

Informed by feedback from our Alpha participants, I am researching options for a bible study group and a prayer group to begin next year. Any ideas or suggestions are very welcome.

Tiziana D'Costa

Pastoral Worker Report September-October 2024

Youth Group

The Youth Group continues to be held once a month on a Saturday evening. We average 15-20 children and have a lot of fun.

Play Group

Launched on 7th October. Approx 45 old Baptism families emailed and invited. Class plans for term completed. LSO from St Kevin and St Charles will alternate with me to help run the morning.

Launching St Vincent de Paul group

I have attended 2 meetings with the St Greg's Conference. At the 2nd meeting I was lucky enough to bring Adrian, Daniel, Nicole and Mary Anne. The plan is to do the training together one evening and join the St Gregs conference – which will then become the St Greg's & St Kevin's Conference.

Pastoral outreach

Continue to reach out via phone, card in mail or visit all parishioners who are unwell, lonely, getting married, having a birthday or having a baby. Very busy few weeks!!

First Eucharist

There are 16 children from my group receiving their first Eucharist on Sunday 20th October at the 10am mass. To assist them in preparing I have organised Charles to offer them reconciliation in my last class on Tuesday the 15th. Pia Pagotto has been booked for the workshop on Wednesday 9th October – Isaac has agreed to preside over a mass at the beginning of the evening. The reflection day is scheduled for today – the 10th October!!

The St Kevin's children will receive their first Eucharist on Saturday 19th October at the 5.30pm mass.

Baptisms

We have been lucky to have a Baptism every fortnight for the last 6 weeks. All the events seem to have gone well. We have 2 more Baptisms booked for November and none (at the moment) for December.

Bookish Morning Tea

Averaging 8-10 people attending each fortnight – a great social outlet for a lot of people.

Nursing Home visits

Currently attending 4 nursing homes a week. we have 14 nursing homes in total that we visit.

Community Cupboard

Amazing ongoing support for Ami – the mum with 2 autistic boys. She comes every second Monday and I provide her with groceries and some cash for petrol, bills etc. she is so very grateful and appreciative to our parish community.

Safeguarding

Tweaked the Self Assessment tools with the suggestions from Charles and have resent to Charles and David to have a look over. When they are happy I will submit to CAM.

Report to Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

St Kevin's Parish Social Justice Action, 10 Oct. 2024

1. Catholic Care video

We have arranged to acquire a brief recent Video (around 2 Minutes) produced by Catholic Care to outline the various services they provide, including support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, and propose to show this during weekend Masses on a particular weekend to be confirmed shortly.

2. "Carry a Can" Campaign

As previously advised and under the new Archbishop's Campaign, Catholic Care and some other Catholic Welfare groups will no longer receive funding from the Archdiocese. They do however receive some Government funding (e.g. associated with particular Refugee service, such as English Classes, Australian Culture, Computer skills). Having collaborated timing with Fr Charles we will launch a campaign across our both Parishes on the 3 weekends of October 26/27, Nov 2/3 and Nov 9/10 to collect donated cans of food from parishioners in support of Catholic Care's "Carry A Can" campaign to distribute appropriate canned food products to people and families in need in time for Christmas 2024. As our collection timing extends beyond Catholic Care's planning schedule we will deliver our collected food directly to Catholic Care as we did similarly for the very successful donated high quality used warm clothes earlier this year.

3. Review of St Kevin's traditional '2nd Collection programme.

Given both the new Archbishop's funding campaign this year and at the same time the Parish's Thanksgiving campaign, the Social Justice Action Group will consider and review the role it has adopted for participating in and coordinating the 2nd Collection programme.

4. Personal friendship/Support

A number of SJA Committee Members continue to provide friendship and support to particular individuals they have come across who benefit from this within or beyond our parish. One person does this as a St Vincent De Paul Volunteer.

5. Planning for 2025

At our next meeting we will start to review our 2024 activities and to plan for 2025 SJA Activities/Events/Information-provision and hope to include more Social Justice online 'consciousness raising' Forums. We have had an enquiry about our SJA group from a St Gregory's person and will invite them to observe our next meeting.

Visual Arts Show

Thank you to Ana and Tiziana for ensuring this event was well publicised in the 'St Kevin's Parish Newsletter'.

We were delighted to have families and parishioners attend the Art show on Sunday morning. We had such positive feedback about the students' work and the set up.

We raised \$210 for the 'Open the Doors Foundation'. This charity is connected to the 'FIRE Carrier Program' in our school.

Year 4 Sleepover

The Sleepover on the 18th of October was lots of fun. It was well attended and the students enjoyed the inflatable castle and track.

Planning Day 20/09

On the last day of the school for Term 3 the staff had a planning day in preparation for Term 4. Loredana Guinane and Stephen Nash (MACS RE Consultants) supported our leaders and teachers to plan their RE and Inquiry work. We are working at using different resources to engage learning in RE and make stronger connections with our Curriculum hosts eg history, science, economics, civic and citizenship.

ARM (Annual Review Meetings) with all staff

The last 5 weeks of term 3 most staff members met with Eva and I and had an opportunity to share their learning so far in 2024 and set goals for the future. Each member received some feedback connected to their learning.

We all work so hard to foster students' learning and resilience it is so rewarding to sit and listen to all the amazing strategies being practiced at St Kevin's.

Congratulations to Sienna Montalto for receiving her full VIT registration. She completed a learning portfolio on 'Science of Reading' focusing on the 'Daily Review' strategy.

District Athletics

On the 6th of September a selection of Year 3 to 6 students participated in the Doncaster District Athletics Day. It was a challenging yet rewarding day and the students spoke positively about the learning experiences.

PE Appointment

It is official! We have a Physical Education Specialist for 2025.

Congratulations Gianni Montalto on being appointed in this position.

Gianni will also be teaching to make up his full time allocation.

Thank you Louis for his work in PE. We look forward to working with you in Term 4! It will be an exciting term with STOMP and Tennis.

National Multicultural Mental Health Art Competition

NMMH's Annual 37th National Consumers Art Competition

Launch of National Multicultural Mental Health Month

Our budding and passionate artist Azalia in Year 2 took on an opportunity to create and share her work within a supportive community while raising awareness for mental health. The theme this year is "Celebrating Diversity, Healing Together". This was a perfect theme as our concept this term was Diversity.

Azalia's work has been selected as one of the final 30 pieces and will be part of the competition to win a prize.

Stadium floors

Our stadium floor was lightly sanded and resurfaced on the 20th of September. The stadium was out of use for 5 days and will be operational from Wednesday 25th of September.

New Students

We welcome two new students in year 4 and year 1.

Both the boys and their families are excited to be part of our community. One of the students' dad was baptised at St Kevin's and he recalls attending mass here till the family moved away.

St Charles Borromeo Update – Thursday 10 October 2024

Story and Craft time

Continues to run on a fortnightly basis (Friday- 10-11 am). Any preschoolers are welcome to attend.

LUME Excursion

Tuesday 15th October- whole school excursion to the LUME.

Multicultural Day

Thursday 17th October- whole school celebration of the many cultures which make up our school.

Kinder excursion

Monday 21st October- we have our final kinder excursion to St Charles. Yarra Valley Preschool will be visiting us to experience school for the day.

Grandparents' Day

Friday 25th October- our grandparents will be coming to spend

time with the grandchildren in the classrooms and then joining us for morning tea.

St Charles Feast Day

Wednesday 6th November- we come together to celebrate the feast day of St Charles Borromeo. Our whole school mass will be celebrated at 2:30 pm

Business Manager Report

Thanksgiving Campaign 2024

1. Timeline

Thanksgiving Campaign commenced last weekend (Saturday 5th October/Sunday 6th October)

The Campaign will run for 3 weekends, ending on the weekend of Saturday 19th October/Sunday 20th October

2. Campaign Envelopes and Materials

As part of our Thanksgiving Campaign, we received **226 envelopes** containing pledge cards and return envelopes from the Archdiocese, which includes **170 for ongoing givers** and **56 for new givers**.

We also received from Archdiocese approximately **15 blank pledge cards** and a stack of generic pledge cards (Catch-All Cards) for the purpose of the Campaign.

The thanksgiving envelopes have been arranged alphabetically in **4 boxes** in the church foyer/gathering space for easy pickup.

Also in the church foyer/gathering space, a collection box for completed pledge cards.

Last weekend, I attended all the Masses and observed that approximately **50 envelopes** have already been picked up by parishioners.

3. Processing

According to **Daniel Wise, the Fundraising Officer from the Archdiocese**, the biggest challenge of the Thanksgiving Campaign is processing.

Here are some potential obstacles we may face:

- Parishioners may be unwilling to answer calls from unknown callers.
- Many may hesitate to provide their credit card information over the phone unless the callers are familiar and well known to them.
- Timing of calls can also be an issue.

To help minimise the above obstacles, **Nadia** has designed and printed labels that are now attached to the back of the pledge cards. These labels will allow parishioners to easily fill in their credit card information.

Points to note:

- The parish does not require parishioners to provide their credit card expiry date or CCV number.
 - Credit card numbers will be redacted with security marker, and the pledge cards will be destroyed after processing to ensure privacy and security.
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- From my observations, it appears there may be some misunderstanding between our **2024 Thanksgiving Campaign** and our existing Thanksgiving envelopes.