

St Michael's Catholic Church, Hurstville

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 1

Wednesday, 29 July 2020 at 7.30 pm

Present: Fr Janusz Bieniek, Kim McCue, Robyn Rodwell, Henry Chandrajaya, Teresa Yin, Carmela Gonzaga, Vicki Lavorato, John Romanous, Royston Fernandes, Winkie Monje, Valerie Gonzaga, Rosamaria Lia, Rose Polic, Julie Rached

Apologies: Mike Amper, Amy Cheung, Emily Mak, Pat Hinson, Tony Sakr, Sandra Mak, Jim Manwaring, Mario Sciacca, Urey Lau, Margaret Tham, Alberto Rubinchtein, Therese De Vine, Christie Mak

- 1) Meeting on 22nd April 2020 cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2) Prayer was led by Fr Janusz.
- 3) Fr Janusz
 - The Parish Office has remained open and the current hours are 10 am – 2 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.
 - The Church has been live streaming Masses especially on Sundays until the last few weeks when parishioners have been welcomed back to the regular weekday and Sunday Masses. Devotions (St Michael and the Holy Angels and Our Mother of Perpetual Help) continue to be live-streamed.
 - Our coming St Michael's feast day celebrations will depend very much on the COVID situation, but we shall have our annual Novena to St Michael's and the Holy Angels leading up to it and perhaps have a parish retreat as well.
 - Volunteers have continued to help during the Liturgy, in the Church and in the Parish Office.
 - St Michael's was not able to access Jobkeeper benefits because we had no paid staff from about February until the beginning of June 2020.
 - The Child Care Project is currently on hold. We have been in discussions about this over the last 3 years and there was strong opposition to the idea initially.
 - The Parish Office is moving to the other side of the Presbytery (annexe nearer to the Church) within the next few weeks.
 - Fr Janusz thanks everyone who is involved in the life of the Parish.
 - Fr Janusz welcomes observations and suggestions.
- 4) Robyn Rodwell (Principal) Bethany College Report
 - Fr Janusz has been celebrating weekly class Masses and providing regular opportunity for Reconciliation for students.
 - Dianne Kennaugh oversees catch up Sacraments.

- The students coped well during remote learning with the supervision of their parents, but everyone was happy to go back to face to face learning.
 - the students have been acknowledged for their work towards the St Vincent de Paul winter appeal.
 - Many activities have been cancelled but the students are encouraged to focus on positive aspects and be grateful for what they have.
 - The 160 year 12 students will be farewelled in quite a different manner than in previous years, but everyone is looking at making this as memorable as possible within the mandated restrictions.
 - All year groups are full and there are 197 places filled for Year 7 in 2020.
- 5) Kim McCue (Principal) Saint Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School Report
- School staff is preparing ~56 SMSS children for First Holy Communion with Masses held on 22/29 August.
 - There has been good transition from face to face to online then back to face to face learning.
 - The teachers made themselves available to families online.
 - There have been 55 acceptances for 164 Kindy 2021 places.
 - Repairs: the Fr Ron Harden Hall roof and floor repairs were completed on Monday, 27 July; new carpets were laid in the year 4 rooms; repairs in the boys' toilets; new retaining wall around outside play equipment.
 - Pending works for Fr Ron Harden Hall: insect screens and kitchen kickboards.
 - School traffic is a big safety issue that needs to be discussed within the school community and with Bayside Council.
- 6) Vicki Lavorato (Education)
- Freeman Catholic College Bonnyrigg and Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary in Bossley Park closed on 29 July because of a student in each school testing positive. They will open on 10 August after deep cleaning in line with government health advice.
 - A nail salon in Westfield Hurstville has a recent positive COVID case.
- 7) Julie Rached (Bethany & SMSS Parent)
- Alumnus of Bethany College
 - Julie's daughter at Bethany is grateful for the class Masses but feels constrained in expressing her faith because of the number of non-practicing Catholics and non-Catholics in the school.
 - There should be more of a focus on the Catholic Faith in Catholic schools and encourage the students to be more engaged in Parish activities as well as promote them in the schools.
 - There has been a concern in the Church about participation of the youth and young adults but gone are the days when we can aspire for huge crowds (like Hillsong).

8) Carmela Gonzaga (Parish accounts)

- Parish books were audited for the 2019 and 2020 financial year on 15 July 2020 by Meoli & Co.
- The 2019 Parish Finance Report has been completed by Carmela, approved by the auditors, and will be presented to the Parish Finance Council which will be meeting on Friday, 7 August.
- St Michael's have been able to maintain their regular planned givers and new ones have signed up.
- Carmela activated the donation button in the Parish website and parishioners have been able to donate through this.
- The Piety Stall reopened a few weeks ago for the Sunday Mass goes and usually two parishioners are in charge for each Mass. Amy Cheung will be coordinating the piety stall volunteers and will do the banking of the money.
- If planned givers need a tax receipt, they need to contact the Parish Office.

9) Henry Chandrajaya (Social Media)

- Henry has been doing the live-streaming of the Masses (weekdays and Sundays) and devotions from the beginning of the COVID shutdown. Over the last few weeks when Masses have been allowed with restrictions, he has continued live-streaming the devotions.
- Live-streaming of Mass has been ceased to encourage parishioners to participate on site.
- St Michael's Hurstville, Catholic Church YouTube channel was set up for live-streaming purposes.
- Henry has also been updating our Parish website and Facebook account.

10) John Romanous (Acolytes)

- There are currently 19 serving acolytes (3 recently resigned and 3 new ones have signed up).
- The acolytes take Holy Communion to home bound parishioners upon request.
- the nursing homes and hospitals have not yet allowed this ministry to recommence.

11) Sandra Mak (Lectors)

- Lectors in-service and social gathering on 21 February with Fr Janusz was successful and it was suggested that the lectors need a session to refresh their understanding and appreciation of the role especially those who are new to the ministry
- Weekday Masses > the following parishioners are assigned to organise the lector roster for each day of the week:
 - Monday: Winkie Monje
 - Tuesday: Sheena Kallarakkal
 - Wednesday: Valerie Gonzaga

Thursday: Rose Polic
Friday: Celine Bernhardt
Saturday: Pinky Acevedo

12) Tony Sakr (Altar Servers)

- We need to recruit Year 5 and Year 6 SMSS students to become Altar Servers.
- Maybe get Year 6 Altar Servers to address their peers and the Year 5 children about their experience in serving at Mass.
- A letter addressed to the parents informing them of the ministry may be sent through the school or by email.
- Training should take place during the allocated school lunch time breaks in the Church over a four to five-week period. Having the training during school hours may result in a greater number of children being involved (as families use the weekends to do sporting activities, shopping, visiting and Church).
- Upon completion of the training, the children will be presented with a Certificate of Recognition/Completion by Fr Janusz either at Sunday Mass or School assembly or within the class.
- Children will be rostered to serve at Sunday and school Masses. Under current COVID restrictions, there should only be 2 altar servers for each Mass.

13) Winkie Monje (Altar Society)

- Winkie is in charge of the Altar and Sacristy supplies and cleaning so please leave a note for her in the Sacristy when consumables (hosts, wine, paper towels, matches, lamp oil etc) are running low.
- She is also in charge of the re-organisation of the library which is now located in the converted rooms (used to be garages) at the back of the Church.

14) Royston Fernandes (Baptism)

- The background of the parents is varied, and Royston takes this into consideration when preparing for the sessions and it helps that he has the completed Baptism registration form which provides some background information.
- Royston has had experience in this ministry when he was in Dubai.

15) Margaret Tham (Catechist Coordinator/Cantonese Community)

- The Cantonese Community celebrates Mass every fourth Sunday at 12 pm.
- Over the last 2 months, since restarting the Cantonese Mass post COVID lockdown, 20+ people attended.
- There is no permanent chaplain for the community. Fr Francis (Redemptorist priest staying in Garden St, Kogarah) celebrated Mass in July and the community hopes he will be able to minister to them long-term.
- The regular prayer meetings and Bible sharing sessions have not resumed.

- St Michael's catechists go to Hurstville Public School.
- Catechism classes resumed at the beginning of Term 3 but due to the COVID situation the regular catechists for Kindy, Year 1, 2, 3 & 4 are not able to teach. Tony Sakr will continue to teach year 5 students. Valerie Gonzaga will teach the combined classes of Year 3 & 4. Carmela Gonzaga is a catechist at Carlton Public School but due to the COVID situation, a decision was made not to send catechists to the school in Term 3. Carmela will now be teaching Year 6 students at HPS. Winkie Monje volunteered to be a catechist at HPS.

16) Valerie Gonzaga (Legion of Mary President/RCIA Coordinator)

- The Legion of Mary has been serving St Michael's Parish for about 57 years.
- Mark Halavazis, our mentor in the Legion, is the longest serving member having joined in 1983.
- We serve the Parish under the direction of the Parish Priest by ministering to the home-bound or those in the hospitals/nursing homes (bringing them Holy Communion and facilitating the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick); as catechists (for the Hurstville Public School and for the Sacramental Program); as members of the RCIA program; by home visits of parishioners and door to door knocking (visiting Catholics and non-Catholics), by serving in the Mass as acolyte, extraordinary ministers, lectors, prayer leaders; by helping out in Parish celebrations.
- This year, four out of the six catechumens in the RCIA program have already been baptised. The Mandarin RCIA has 10 Catechumens who will be baptised on 9 August and their children a few weeks later. Hopefully all the adults will be confirmed at St Mary's Cathedral later in the year.

17) Rose Polic (Croatian Community/St Michael Society)

- Croatian prayer group meets every Thursday at 11 am in the Church.
- There are 30 members (all belong to the older age group, there are four men) but currently only 22 have been attending because of fears about the COVID situation.
- Once a month, a guest speaker (a nun) provides teaching and one of the recent topics is the danger of the New Age movement.
- The group prays for priests.
- It has financially supported the education of 30 priests in India and are now supporting the Michaelite missionaries (through the St Michael Society) in Papua New Guinea.

18) Rosamaria Lia (Marian Cenacle/Padre Pio)

- The Cenacle has been meeting every week (Tuesdays at 6 pm in the Church) for 27 years and has a core group of 8-10 people.
- The Padre Pio group meets every First Friday and the devotion includes the Holy Rosary after Mass.

- Rosamaria expressed concern over the difficulty in finding parking when coming for the weekday Mass.

19) Michael Amper (Filipino Community)

- The Filipino Community has been active in the Parish for decades.
- It holds a regular Cenacle prayer group but the time and day for this varies depending on the availability of the members.
- Members visit the sick in their homes and in the hospitals.
- They lead prayers for the recently deceased and for death anniversaries.
- They serve in the Mass especially for the Sunday 10 am Mass (acolytes, readers, greeters, piety stall helpers, hospitality-morning tea).
- Members are volunteers in the Parish Office (currently helping with the re-organisation of the Parish Library).
- Organising and helping during the St Michael's Feast Day celebrations and Christmas Parties.

Safeguarding Reminder

Everyone who is involved in the life of St Michael's Parish must fulfill the Safeguarding requirements as mandated by the Archdiocese. These are listed in the Parish website (under Publications > Ministries & Activities).

- 1) Working with Children Check
<https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check>
- 2) Filling in and submitting the Volunteer Registration-Acceptance Form
- 3) Reading and signing the Code of Conduct for Working with Children
- 4) Completing the online Safeguarding Induction Training.

COVID Restrictions Reminder

- 1) Please follow social distancing rules while within parish grounds (1.5 meters or about 2 adult arm's length). Our Church (including the side chapel and the loft) should be able to accommodate 100 people. Chairs may be set out at the back of the Church, in the foyer and in the covered area next to the Corroboree Room as needed. Do not move the chairs around.
- 2) Please bring your own hand sanitiser when coming to Church and use it liberally (hand sanitisers are also provided at the entrances).
- 3) Please avoid touching anything within the Church.
- 4) Please sit in the pews where indicated.
- 5) Please write down your name and mobile/landline number on the sheets provided at the entrances of the Church every time you come to Mass. Use your own pen if possible. Pens are provided, but after use, please put them in the "used pens" box.
- 6) Congregational singing is suspended.
- 7) The wearing of masks in the Church is acceptable.
- 8) If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection (fever, sore throat, earache, runny nose, nasal congestion, coughing, wheezing, sob etc) please consider praying at home.

Next Meeting (tentative date): Wednesday, 28th October 2020 at 7.30pm in the presbytery

Prepared by Valerie