

# St Michael's Catholic Church, Hurstville

## Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 2

Wednesday, 10 February 2021 at 7.30 pm

Present: Fr Janusz Bieniek, Rebecca Besly, Robyn Rodwell, Henry Chandrajaya, Carmela Gonzaga, Dennis Mak, Emily Mak, Amy Cheung, Julie Rached, Royston Fernandes, Valerie Gonzaga.

Apologies: Winkie Monje, Teresa Yin, John Romanous, Pat Hinson, Sandra Mak, Tony Sakr, Mike Amper, Urey Lau, Margaret Tham, Alberto Rubinchtein, Vicki Lavorato.

- 1) Prayer was led by Fr Janusz.
- 2) Robyn Rodwell (Principal) Bethany College Report
  - Robyn commends St Michael's on its pastoral initiatives and activities.
  - She endorses the close connection between the College and the Parish and is grateful for the efforts by Fr Janusz and Fr George in regularly visiting the school and celebrating the Sacraments.
  - The Opening Staff Mass was celebrated by Fr George.
  - We say goodbye to Dianne Kennaugh who has left the REC post to become the Assistant Principal at St Aloysius' College. She is replaced by Sarah Camporeale whom we welcome warmly in the position.
  - The 2020 graduating class attained the best HSC results ever for the College.
  - 2021 sees 1080 enrolments, 172 students in the Year 7 cohort and 16 new staff.
  - Enrolment for the 2022 Year 7 has commenced and already has a waiting list.
  - The College Open Day is on 2<sup>nd</sup> March targeting year 4 and 5 students. Year 5 students will need to have enrolled by end of Term 1. All primary feeder schools are being visited and the Parish will be asked to advertise that the College is open for 2023 enrolments.
  - Census figures show that 65% of the College students are Catholic and 30% Orthodox.
  - Year 7 students who are not Catholic will participate in a program called "Being Catholic" organised by the REC and Assistant REC. This program introduces students to the key beliefs in Catholicism and offers the opportunity for questions about the Faith and the practice of the Faith.
  - The College will continue the Monday class Masses, monthly opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and monthly involvement in the Sunday Parish Youth Mass. This year, the students will likely re-commence participation in the Youth Mass after Easter.
  - The College aims to increase opportunities for students to be involved in social justice initiatives through St Vincent de Paul Society and the Jesuit Refugee Service.

- In 2021, Catholic Life and Mission for staff will focus on 200 Years of Catholic Education as well Indigenous Spirituality.

### 3) Rebecca Besly (Principal) Saint Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School Report

- This is day 10 in her new role as principal of the School and she feels welcomed in the community.
- She finds that the School has a vibrant atmosphere which is contributed to by the children's good interaction with each other. She aims to build on this vibrancy in the coming years.
- The Opening Staff and Whole School Liturgies were led by staff and students. It was a pleasure to have Fr Janusz bless the school community at the Whole School Liturgy. Current COVID regulations support the return of class Masses in the Church this term. This is a welcome opportunity for re-engagement of the students with the Parish.
- This year, the School has 416 students (but still welcomes additional enrolments) with 55 in the Kindergarten cohort. The school also welcomed three new staff including Rebecca.
- The enrolment period for Kindergarten 2022 will commence with the launch of Catholic Schools Week. Negotiations are underway with Bethany College and Marist Kogarah to organise college visits which will create and support pathways for the current year 5 students into local Catholic high schools.
- The School aims to increase opportunities for students to enhance the connection between Faith and charitable works through the extension of the Mini Vinnies program to all students in Years 3-6. This year will see the introduction of the Pope Francis Award in Year 6.
- In 2021, Catholic Life and Mission will focus on 200 Years of Catholic Education as well as the encountering of life and service through a focus on Scripture.

### 4) Carmela Gonzaga (Parish Accounts)

- There is only a slight downturn of the collection amount during the time of COVID restrictions. The Parish Website BPoint was activated at this time.
- Second Collection Total Income  
 July - December 2019: \$69,861.85  
 January - June 2020: \$56,168.50  
 July - December 2020: \$66,908.55  
 The parish as no other source of income apart from the collection.
- Expenses: Staff wages, Church insurance, water, electricity, Sacristy consumables, Office stationery and consumables, hygiene and cleaning consumables, repairs and maintenance etc.
- The Parish Office was managed by volunteers from March 2020 until June 2020. No JobKeeper payments were received at St Michael's.
- The year-ending 30 June 2020 Parish Finance Report is available.

5) Valerie Gonzaga (Sacraments)

- The Parish is grateful to SMSS for taking on the Sacramental Program in 2020.
- The Parish Sacramental Program 2021 Timetable is posted on the Parish Website. The Program deals with the Sacrament of Confirmation (year 6), first Holy Communion (year 3) and first Reconciliation (year 2). It is open to all age-appropriate children (even if they belong to other parishes so long as their parish priest is aware). It includes 4 sessions of instructions that all program children must attend. We also ask the parents to commit to bringing their children to Sunday Mass at the very least while the program is ongoing.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation Registration forms will soon be available for distribution and is already published on the Parish Website. Bishop Umbers will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Parents can organise the Sacrament of Baptism for their children by emailing the Parish Office, attention to Valerie. Information about child Baptism is posted on the Parish Website.
- Parents can organise the Sacrament of Confirmation for their children who are already in secondary school by emailing the Parish Office, attention to Valerie.
- Adults who have yet to be confirmed in the Catholic Church and would like to receive this sacrament should email the Parish office, attention to Valerie.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation is offered at St Mary's Cathedral twice a year: On Pentecost Sunday and on the last Sunday of October.
- The Parish offers the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program every Tuesday (except the second Tuesday of the month) at 8.00 pm in the Presbytery. This is open to all who would like to know more about the Catholic Faith, or who would like to be received into the Catholic Faith. This starts in July and finishes on Easter Sunday of the following year, but we invite people throughout the year to join the program. We have four participants who are hoping to be received into the Catholic Church this Easter along with four children.
- The parish also runs the Mandarin RCIA and the Cantonese RCIA. There are no participants in either group for Baptism this Easter.

6) Fr Janusz

- Fr George was appointed parish administrator in November 2020 after Fr Janusz was suddenly taken gravely ill. Thank God that Fr Janusz is now returned to full health but he is grateful for the very able work Fr George is rendering the Parish.
- Fr Janusz is keen on the cooperation and collaboration between the Parish and the schools and welcomes the principals especially Rebecca who is to be congratulated on her new job as SMSS principal.

- Parents have the prime responsibility of bringing up their children in the Faith but Catholic schools have a role to play in supporting the parents in this vocation.
- We appreciate that there can be up to 2000 children celebrating Liturgy at St Michael's on a given school day, a sign of the vibrancy of the Church. We must build on this as a Parish. There is good work to be done on engaging the parents, so that they in their turn can work on making God and the Church relevant again in their family life.
- The Parish is focused on increasing the Church attendance numbers as well as the active participation of the parishioners.
- 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 has been declared as the Year of St Joseph by Pope Francis. We shall pray the Prayer to St Joseph after every Mass throughout the year. We shall also be praying the Novena to St Joseph after every Mass from the 10<sup>th</sup> March until 18<sup>th</sup> March and then celebrate the Feast of St Joseph on 19<sup>th</sup> March. A suggestion was made to start a parish men's group with St Joseph as patron.
- We have the Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent at 7.30 pm.
- The Palm Sunday and Easter Triduum Liturgy booklets and Holy Week Schedule are posted in the Parish Website as well as on the noticeboards in the Church vestibule area. Please bring your own palms for Palm Sunday.
- "Go Make Disciples" – an Archdiocesan initiative led by Daniel Ang which builds on Archbishop Fisher's vision to strengthen and renew the Faithful in the Lord Jesus, to go out and spread the Good News especially to children and the youth and to foster faithful communities that will support and nurture each and everyone. The Parish 2020 initiative which was, for a time, under Tony Farley's direction (now SCS CEO) greatly contributed to this.
  1. Main references:
    - a. Go Make Disciples: Mission Plan for the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney
    - b. Go Make Disciples: Summary Version
  2. The five foundations to build on are:
    - Evangelisation
    - Leadership
    - Community
    - Formation
    - Worship
  3. St Michael's Hurstville belongs to St George Deanery (8)
  4. As per the Mission Plan, our Parish is clustered in Group C with St Patrick's Kogarah (Mgr Henryk Micek) and St Bernadette's Carlton (Fr Gabriel Ballawig) as sister parishes (p 247).
  5. Sister parishes within a cluster will collaborate with one another on pastoral initiatives as well as share resources (p 241). For example: RCIA based at St Michael's, Adoration based at St Bernadette's,

Youth Group based at St Patrick's; complementary Mass times among the three parishes.

6. Go Make Disciples Cluster Working Group Meeting every 4th Monday of the month at 7.30 pm at St Michael's Presbytery starting the 22 February 2021.
7. Cluster Priests Meeting every second Tuesday of the month at 10.30 am at St Patrick's Presbytery (this started in February).
8. Cluster Bulletin vol 1 issue 1 lists Masses and devotions in the 3 sister parishes. Parishioners to support initiatives of the three sister parishes.
9. In the future: Cluster C combined PFC meeting looking into funding common activities.
10. (p 248) Parishes under consideration: "Every year, the Archdiocese will examine 10 parishes whose situation suggests they would benefit from twinning or merger of their communities with another due to declining community participation, poor access to temporal resources for mission, insufficient personnel for growth and outreach, or because they form a natural unit." It is better to be proactive now than to wait for the Archdiocese to put us under consideration and maybe it will be decided for us to be twinned or merged. If we are able to set up the Child Care facilities within parish grounds then we will be financially more secure than at the present moment.

- Q&A: Catholics receive preference when enrolling in Catholic schools.
- The meeting concluded at 9.00pm.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.30pm in the presbytery

Prepared by Valerie & Henry