

St Michael's Catholic Church, Hurstville

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 6

Wednesday, 2 March 2022 at 8.30 pm

Present: Fr Janusz Bieniek, Fr George Gorzkowski, Robyn Rodwell, Rebecca Besly, Gabrielle Djan, Henry Chandrajaya, Michael Kamau, Sandra Mak, Mike Amper, Alice Rivera, Alberto Rubinchtein, Jocelyn Quiros, Carmela Gonzaga, Valerie Gonzaga.

Apologies: Winkie Monje, Pat Hinson, Teresa Yin, Amy Cheung, Emily Mak, Vicky Lavorato, John Romanous, Tony Sakr, Denis Zebec, Royston Fernandes, Jim Manwaring, Mario Sciacca, Rosamaria Lia, Rose Polic, Urey Lau, Margaret Tham.

1) Prayer was led by Fr Janusz.

2) Robyn Rodwell (Principal) Bethany College Report

- Numbers - Whole school students: 1109; year 7 students: 185 (80 are non-Catholic); other years new students: 16; all staff: 105; new staff: 17.
- Events: 1) Opening of the School Mass with Fr Janusz; 2) Year 12 Leaders' Commissioning Mass with Fr Janusz; 3) Year 7 Welcome Mass with Fr George.
- In 2022, Bethany placed 63rd out of 800 schools in HSC.
- Applications are now being accepted for 2024 Year 7. The Open Day attracted 1000 visitors.
- "Together We Serve" – new social justice initiative which encourages students to be of service to others starting in the home.
- Monthly Reconciliation and Mass in Bethany College Chapel.
- Bethany to host students being trained as extraordinary ministers in the future.
- Students to start serving at the parish youth Mass (6 pm on Sundays) as music leaders beginning in June.
- Project Compassion goal: \$10,000

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

- Thanks to Fr Janusz and Fr George for their flexibility and accommodation of the students so they can avail of the Sacraments and practice their faith despite the COVID restrictions.
- Numbers – Whole school students: 410; new staff: 10
- There is a waiting list for Year 5.
- Return to regular school hours with mixing across cohorts.
- Specialist sport teachers are now on staff and Mandarin has been added to curriculum.
- Year 3 and Year 5 NAPLAN results showed improvement in Mathematics and English.
- School is working towards grade Masses being held in the Church on a rotating schedule.

- Pope Francis Award was introduced in 2021 and students completed hours of service in the community and parish. This year, more students are signing up.
- There was increased participation by Year 5 and Year 6 students with Mini-Vinnies.
- Extracurricular: Mini-Vinnies, Pope Francis award, chess, scrabble, coding, robotics, dance ensemble, choir ensemble, SRC, passive play options.
- School Open Days: 21st & 22nd March.
- Discussion with Bethany College to have shared Masses in 2022.

4) Parking

- When there is parish liturgy drawing a good number of worshippers to the Church, the principals agreed to make available the carpark next to the demountable buildings within Bethany College. Both Bethany College and SMSS (so that teachers can be advised not to block the driveway) must be informed prior.

5) Liturgy, Sacraments and Devotions through COVID-19 in 2021 (Fr George)

- We have been able to continue with all Masses and devotions despite the restrictions/lockdown.
- There were a significant number of Baptisms as well as the Confirmation and First Holy Communion programs going ahead.

6) Thank you (Fr Janusz)

- The Sunday Mass leadership is very much appreciated: Acolytes and MCRs and readers and money collectors and greeters.
- Michael Kamau has been emptying the bins in the Church, clearing the grounds, putting out the rubbish bins every Sunday evening and bringing them back in early Monday morning. He is also in charge of the money counting.
- Henry Chandrajaya facilitated the reconnection of our telephone line and is now our T person. He has been doing all the liturgy live-streaming over the last two years. He is the president of the Legion of Mary.
- Gabrielle Djan is now working in the Parish Office on Mondays between 10 am and 2 pm. We are pleased to welcome Gabrielle.
- We are grateful for the contribution of the Spanish, Mandarin and Cantonese communities to our parish life.

7) Holy Week

- Holy Thursday Liturgy at 7 pm
Altar of Repose to be prepared in the Old Church (back room) by the Filipino Cenacle Group and other volunteers.
- Good Friday Liturgy at 3 pm
The Stations of the Cross will be held outside Fr Ron Harden Hall.
We shall need volunteers to set up the crosses for each station from 8.30 am on the day.
Sandra Mak will assign different groups for each station.

The sound system will be provided by the Spanish community.

8) Easter Vigil Liturgy at 6 pm

- Alberto Rubinchtein will organise the bonfire for the Paschal candle.

Next Meeting: To be announced.

Prepared by Valerie