

Minutes of Holy Spirit Parish AGM held Thursday 26th May 2016
Mary Bresnan Room commencing 7.30 pm

In Attendance: Father Joe (Parish Priest), Stan Fisher (PPC Chairperson), Mary Ryan, Silvio Volombello, Helen Konynenburg, Dominic North-Coombes, Marilyn Grant, Michael & Kerry O'Leary, Michael Chouveau, Kevin O'Callaghan, Helen Scorgie, Christian Heskett, Robin & Alec Walsh, Tina Toomey, Vin & Gabrielle Dwyer, Shirley Graham, Carole Voytenkoff, Sue Johnston, Kylie Papadopoulos, Carmel Hill, Lawry Cecconello, Ana Saro, Mark Johnstone and Ruth Frangeskakis

Apologies: Jean Smith, Jenny Philp, Don Schroder, Marita North-Coombes

Stan Fisher welcomed everyone to the meeting.

All prayed the Opening Prayer with Father Joe and he presented his Report for the 2015 Year. A copy of Father's report was given to those present.

A booklet of Parish Group Reports was available on the night.

Stan Fisher noted PPC events held throughout the year. The Trivia and dance nights were a huge success and hope to repeat this year. The December Carols was also well received. Particular thanks was expressed to Peter Camilleri for his outstanding efforts integrating school and parish and his attendance on PPC for 17 years. Council member numbers are very short and if anyone knows anyone who may like to join, please pass on their names to Stan or Dominic.

Not all groups were represented on the night. Most groups had little or nothing more to add to their published report.

Fete Committee – Mark Johnstone apologised for not producing a Fete report as he was interstate. This year they are focussing on OH&S for stall holders such as diagrams and emergency call contacts to make the day safer and secure. Looking at new sponsor for infrastructures such as fridges, generators. Coates Hire and other companies have been approached and hope to make a \$5-6K saving. Wristbands will be reduced to \$40 and there will be one band to cover all rides and ages.

Sharks Football Club – Michael Chouveau represented the Club. There are 380 boys in the Club and it is one of the largest in the Maroondah/Manningham area. Hoping to promote and involve girls into the game. An under-15 team played on ANZAC day and it is hoped this will be an annual event - great for the Community. They mainly play at Domeney and Stintons Reserves.

Sunday Home Communion – Helen Scorgie advised that a new couple has joined in response to the recent Time and Talent Parish Expo.

Holy Spirit School – Sue Johnston said that the school misses Peter however, all is running smoothly. Sue thanked the Parish community for all their support.

High Spirits – Father introduced Ana Saro as the new coordinator for High Spirits. Ana runs the after school RE classes at St Gerard's on Mondays. There are 31 children enrolled at High Spirits. Eight were confirmed recently. Attendances average 22-27 per week and God's message of love and faith is spread. Activities include art, craft, music and prayers. Ana is currently undergoing chemotherapy and Stan wished her every success with her treatment.

Year of Mercy – Mary Ryan spoke about preparations for Year of Mercy. A Holy Spirit Welcome Mat will be added to the entrance of the Church. A Billboard promoting the message of Year of Mercy to be erected at the front of the property, thanks to Hoskins Real Estate. The glass doors into the entrance of the Church have been removed to make way for a “Mercy Doorway”. It is planned to have discs placed around the entrance which will be decorated by Grade 5 children with a photo of someone who has shown Mercy to them in their life. Parishioners will also be invited to participate in this project. The discs will be numbered to allow follow-up and placed on the back wall. All will be revealed on 18th June.

Parish Finance Report – Silvio presented a powerpoint of the Parish finances. Need to look at extending thanksgiving through the school community. Plans for the future include roof refurbishment of Community Centre, repair chairs, paint back wall and install pin boards and refurbish Sacristy. Would like to install pergola outside Chapel but cost came in at \$22K. The recent Stewardship program did boost financial figures in particular, the Presbytery portion. However, there is a real concern with the pledges from 70+ age group.

An Open Forum was then held.

Father Joe expressed concern about the audio in the Church. Would like a professional engineer to come and look at our sound system. Sound at the back of the Church and in the Choir area is very poor. Many people use the PA system and change the sound levels causing sounds to be different. Some readers also mistake the light on the lectern for the microphone. Hearing aid loops were suggested for those with hearing difficulties.

It was also suggested to make better use of the projector before Mass starts. Perhaps Parish news or a video camera on the altar area. However, this would require another screen and projector. More thought is needed on this. The Church floor is also wearing badly. Air vents have been installed to assist in drying out the area beneath the floor.

In closing, Dominic, PPC Secretary, thanked Stan and Ruth for their preparation work for the AGM. He also thanked those present for attending and for the parish group reports. His preference however, is for people to be in attendance to speak rather than read reports from a booklet.

The meeting concluded at 9.00 pm with closing song “Hearts on Fire”.