

Minutes of Holy Spirit Parish AGM held Wednesday 15th July 2020
Via ZOOM (due to COVID lockdown) commencing 7.30 pm

In Attendance: Father Arsenio, Mary Ryan, Maryann Street, Michael & Kerry O'Leary, Silvio Volombello, Peter Parle, Ron & Jean Smith, Marilyn Grant, Tina Toomey, Kevin O'Callaghan, Don Schroder, Sue Wallace, Maureen Chamberlin, Yvette Collins, Vin & Gabrielle Dwyer, Helen Konynenburg, Maree Buttler, Andrew Mitchell, Maureen & Terry Taffe, Jacinta Bibby, Duncan Arendse, John Cilia, Dale Sebire, David Heath, Helen Scorgie, Marita North-Coombes, Ruth Frangeskakis

Apologies: Karen Woods, Stan Fisher, Jenny Philp - Sincerest condolences and sympathies to the Philp Family on the passing of Peter's Father, Jack last Sunday and especially that Peter's Mother, Betty also passed recently. Please keep Peter and Jenny in your prayers.

Mary Ryan welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Parish Groups, Ministries, School and Staff for all their input. A special warm welcome to Fr Arsenio to his first AGM.

Opening Prayer and Address – Fr Arsenio. Father acknowledged how technology is able to bring us together and we must support each group and ministry during these difficult times.

Reports

Parish Group Reports are available in booklet form and on the Website. Not all groups were represented on the night. Brief summaries from those in attendance follow:

Parish Leadership Team (PLT), Silvio Volombello.

Members consist of Mary Ryan, Dominic North-Coombes, Jacinta Bibby and Father Arsenio. Fr Jose left last October. Thanks to Jacinta for maintaining parish services whilst we awaited a new Parish Priest. Great people have been looking after us in Jenny, Ruth, Mary and Kerry. Silvio also thanked Dominic for his sterling efforts and passion as he stepped down from PPC.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), Mary Ryan.

PPC meetings been on hold till new Priest arrived.
Refurbishment of chapel is ongoing and should be finished in near future.
Maree Buttler, Tina Toomey and Dominic North-Coombes have resigned from PPC.
Three places on PPC need to be filled and hope to regroup in a month.
Election of Office Bearers should occur every two years.

Fete, John Cilia.

A Report will be forthcoming. A very successful fete was held last year. There was a changed layout, changed times and a bar included. Volunteers and attendee figures were up and approximately \$80K was made. Highly unlikely there will be a fete this year.

Prep Parish Dinners, Sue Wallace.

The format has been changed to one dinner for the 3 classes instead of 3 separate dinners.

Choir, Maree Buttler and Marilyn Grant.

Had Christmas masses but no Easter services were held. Since Palm Sunday, the Group have been meeting weekly via Zoom which has been very interesting for the Choir.

Body of Christ Prayer Group, Ann Serong.

Ann was an apology so Maryann Street spoke. The Group is currently in recess. Last year 25-30 parishioners attended a 6 week seminar. The group is small but is open to anyone joining.

Sunday Home Communion, Helen Scorgie.

Helen is very reluctant to go back to the aged and frail in nursing homes until there is a vaccine.

Monday Meditation, Yvette Collins.

Small group which is currently in hibernation.

Baptism Preparation, Yvette Collins.

This Ministry needs attention. Need to speak with Father to ensure families are well prepared. No baptism bookings taken at the moment and there are currently about 8 families on a waiting list. Yvette would like to step back and if anyone knows someone who would be suitable as baptism coordinator please advise the Parish House.

RCIA, Tina Toomey.

Have 2 catechumens in Andrew Mitchell and Sam Philp however, due to COVID, meetings could no longer take place and the proposed date of 18th July for reception will now not occur.

Alpha, Maryann Street.

On 22nd July there will be an on-line celebratory evening for people who completed Alpha. Holy Spirit is the first and only group completing the program on-line in the entire Archdiocese. Has been very challenging. Smaller faith groups could be developed via Zoom. The program has been running for 3 years.

Evergreens, Jean Smith.

Group is in hibernation. Waiting on when they can hold support group meetings. Keeping in touch with phone calls and birthday cards.

Spirit Magazine, Helen Konynenburg.

A long report was submitted, so please read and think about the magazine's future. There were 50 copies initially with an extra 20 produced all by donation - there was no cost to the Parish. Maybe produce an on-line version to reduce costs. Will need some hard copies though for those who are vulnerable. Spirit extra has been a wonderful initiative during these hard times. Many thanks to Michael O'Leary as the magazine wouldn't happen on the website without him.

St Vincent de Paul, Kevin O'Callaghan.

Group still operating throughout COVID. No government assistance is received. Income received mainly from the shops which are open again. There is no \$2 monthly collection happening and really need the support of parishioners. Many thanks to Ron Smith for his work and orchestrating \$5K grant from Maroondah Council. There is a link to donate to Vinnies but must quote "Ringwood Conference" so that they receive the money.

Grief and Loss, Robin Walsh.

Robin was not at the meeting, however Jean Smith applauded Robin for her 20 years dedication. PPC to acknowledge and thank her for her contribution.

Pastoral Care, Jacinta Bibby.

Jenny, Ruth and Jacinta have held Parish together till Fr Arsenio arrived on 1st April. They provided great support and the Parish will flourish with Fr Arsenio. Mary Yeo to be acknowledged for her extraordinary work in keeping us and St Anne's clean and be sent flowers.

Website, Michael O'Leary.

Report is to the end of March. Traffic up by 20%. Not much change to site visits. Xmas Eve and Easter Saturday peaked. Extra videos produced. Mary Ryan thanked Mike for his many hours of work on the Website which is now well functioning and more user-friendly.

School, Duncan Arendse.

It has been an interesting year for the school. Challenging for the teachers, staff and children. There are 76 Preps enrolled for next year which is a credit to the school. Congratulations.

Finances, Silvio.

Andrew Lannen has come onboard the Finance Committee to run the Stewardship program which is on the decline. Total income for 2019 at \$214,600 and total expenses at \$218,600 leaving a net operating loss of \$4K. There is \$120K in the bank which will keep us going. Chapel revamp to cost around \$15K for a roof outside, chairs, carpet, review placement of tabernacle and TV screen, plastering etc. A donation of \$25K has been received from a parishioner which will be used for the Chapel.

It was suggested to contact thanksgiving envelope people to see if they might change to Credit Card or Direct Debit. Jenny has spoken to people. Envelopes can be dropped off to Parish House. Also mass attendances are down with school parents not supporting Church or attending mass. However, this is a sign of the times. The school has 280 families and 95% are Catholic. There are many demands on school families. This is an opportunity for Divine Renovation and Alpha to target school parents by reaching out. The Winter Shelter was well supported by the school community with tremendous support from families.

Parish Lockdown, Mary Ryan.

An attachment on Parishes lockdown during COVID was circulated. In the article, it was noted what is going on in Melbourne during this time and how parishes responded. Holy Spirit was very well represented. After lockdown there will be a new reality into the future. Three questions for thought on lockdown: Before the crisis, during the crisis and after the crisis. Mary asked us all to pause for a moment of reflection and share any thoughts. Some thoughts were: missed family and friends, missed Sunday mass and worship and receiving Eucharist, lonely people not having anyone for support and isolation and loneliness.

Mary thanked everyone for attending the AGM on-line. A few points to note:

- The minutes will be typed and circulated by Ruth.
- Next PLT Meeting to be held on 24th July.
- The Alpha celebration night on 22nd July is open to everyone to join however, you must register via the link which is advertised in The Word.
- Next Zoom Parish chat is 29th July.
- Thanks to Fr Arsenio, we are now the owners of our own Zoom Room Parish Account. Any group wishing to host a meeting, or for prayer or meditation, call the Parish House to book the room. Please note only one group at a time can use the room.

Don Schroder added his thanks to Maryann for her technical expertise and quote: "We have a new Parish Priest and WE WILL BE OK".

The meeting concluded at 9.15 pm with a closing prayer by Fr Arsenio.

