

# Minutes St Joseph's Pastoral Council

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**Present:** Ken Eades, Cherylynn Passmore, Fr Maleko, Heather O'Halloran, Pat Salandanan, Lauano Ilaoa, Melemo Mataele, Nigel Bennett and Maryclare Morrison.

Apologies: Gus Taulanga, Josephine Bourke, Mike Williams, Kiko Mataele, Tina Afoa and Paula Siaki.

Meeting opened with prayer led by Pat Salandanan

Ratification of Minutes delayed until next meeting as minutes for June had not been received as yet.

## REPORTS

### **Sacramental Program:**

All but one family are going ahead with getting their children confirmed this Sunday.

Ken: Is there some way to keep track of those who don't go ahead when their child is 8 and ensure they don't miss out later?

Maryclare: Perhaps the school could get those children, in the last year at the school, to have it done before they move onto College.

Fr Maleko: One person came to see me to query why some children over 8 were getting blessings rather than receiving Communion. My response was that perhaps they are not Catholic.

Heather: There is a barrier to Sunday practices for the Sacramental Program for some families which is why they don't attend.

Ken: In a prior parish of mine a lady came to the school on Mondays to cover what the children, unable to attend on the Sunday, had missed.

Heather: It is on the School strategic plan to look into this, however there is also the consideration for those who do not go to the School and how to reach them. We have been speaking to St Brendans about how they address this.

Maryclare: Parents coming along with the children to the Sacramental Program has been beneficial, not only for the children but also the parents. Some of the parents asked if they could receive reconciliation at their children's first reconciliation which was great. I have had no issues with attendance from the families in the program.

Heather: The families that are currently attending the Sacramental Program were the ones for whom Sundays were available. There were some families who could not commit due to the practices being on a Sunday. It has been noted that there is a number of baptised children at the school is much less in number than it was 20 years ago.

**Tongan Community:** The last two Friday's the community has visited elderly members instead of the usual Friday Rosary. It has been really hard for the community to turn up to Rosary due to the weather. Definitely more consistent when the weather or the flu season improves.

Viliami Tau'alupe, of the Tongan Catholic Community in Karori, passed away. The Upper Hutt Tongan Community took part in the funeral service.

The Tongan Community still sings at the first Sunday at 10.30am and provides the hospitality after Mass. The choir also sings on the third Sunday at 10.30am with the Samoan Community providing the hospitality.

After the school holidays the Homework club will commence every Wednesday between 6 & 8pm at St Joseph's school. This is open to any children in the Parish. The Tongan Community would like to thank St Joseph's School for their support.

### **Filipino Community:**

The Filipino Community organised this month's Holy Hour.

The choir continues to sing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 10.30am.

The Legion of Mary has stopped in person meetings as the senior citizens are afraid of getting sick over the winter with cold/flu and covid still around. They are having on-line zoom meetings instead.

We continue family visitations. The statue of Mary is taken around to different houses, with the Rosary recited, and then stays with them for a week or two. We have had an Indian families also hosting the statue at their homes.

We continue visitation of the sick.

**School:** It is school holidays at the moment

The new House and Syndicate signs are up and there will be the grand opening of the new school classrooms on Monday 17<sup>th</sup>. This will start at 9am with a liturgy led by Archbishop Paul Martin.

In light of Kaitiakitangi we will be checking how much rubbish we collect over the week. We will also be doing a rubbish tour and clean up at Petone Beach. It is all about caring for God's creation. We will learn about the different types of rubbish and what we can do with it. (*Kaitiakitanga is a New Zealand Māori term used for the concept of guardianship, for the sky, the sea, and the land. A kaitiaki is a guardian, and the process and practices of protecting and looking after the environment are referred to as kaitiakitanga*).

Nigel: What is happening with the School hall?

Heather: The afterschool care will be moving in but it can't as yet as there is clean up yet to occur. There is still some equipment left there from the bowling club who used to use it. The Scout Hall is currently being used for after school care at the moment.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Parish Census:** Cherylynn was to work on this with Andrew Herrick who was going to sort an on-line system. This is yet to be sorted.

**Youth:** Fr Maleko has approached some youth who are thinking about joining the Parish Council and will get back to him. He has not heard anything as yet. He may put an invitation in the Parish Bulletin.

Melemo: In light of the youth, perhaps contact Our Lady of Grace who run a youth program and see if St Joseph's youth can join up with them?

Syro Malabar: The Syro Malabar Community now have a new church home at Stokes Valley. They advised Fr Maleko of this two days after the last meeting. They are paying the same rate as they did at their previous church.

**Speaker:** Fr John O'Connor from the National Liturgy Office will be coming to speak to the Parish. A date and time have not as yet been set. He will be speaki9ng about Sacraments and Liturgy and Birth and Death. Ken to contact him to ask when he might be free to do this. He gave a workshop in Lower Hutt in March which was very good.

Meeting concluded with prayer led by Pat Salandanan.

Next meeting to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 at 7pm. Venue to be communicated via email.