

## St Josephs Upper Hutt Parish Pastoral Council

**Minutes of Meeting** held in the parish meeting room,

**Present:** Teresa Homan (chair), Fr Maleko, Hugh Steel, Matt Morrison, Cushla Lippit (school), Peter Dawson (minutes).

**Apologies:** Pat Salandanan.

**Minutes:** Agreed.

### **Matters arising:**

**Youth:** On track to depart to Auckland on Friday, back on Tuesday. Cost \$5,500.00 all funds raised successfully. 17 people going in 2 vehicles with 3 drivers. Total numbers for the event are around 700 with 160 coming from Wellington.

**School:** Steve Coulam has been appointed as Director of Religious Studies. The school is having trouble recruiting for tagged positions. Copyright issues are still being worked through at the diocesan level, and we should continue as we are currently.

**First Communion:** 36 children took their first communion at mass last Sunday at 10:30am mass.

**Christmas Parade:** Timing was too late for any entry from either the parish or the school. The school have agreed to enter the 2018 parade, they will just need a prod in about September next year.

**Children's Mass Books:** Cushla presented copies of mass booklets she has created for the younger parishioners, particularly for the Wednesday 9am Mass.

**Christmas Party:** Teresa advised that she had gone ahead and organised a parish party at St Peter Chanel on Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm lasting until perhaps 10pm with karaoke as optional entertainment..

**Remembrance:** Placing the names of deceased parishioners on the windows seems to have been successful. We planned to have a minor ceremonial cleansing of the windows after the 11:15am mass on Friday. *Peter* to arrange and carry out on the day.

The planned event for the youth took place as planned.

**The Parihaka** event took place as planned by Teresa.

**Disabled Music Group:** Teresa advised that she had been approached by a parishioner who offered to lead the group for a nominal fee

**Coffee Drop In:** No progress at this stage.

**Some discussion** around getting more representatives on the Pastoral Council. Suggestion that inviting people rather than having an election was aired.

### **Synod issues:**

Discussion centred around the summary included with last weekends Parish Newsletter.

*Copy appended to these minutes for the record.*

**LED Screen:** Discussions have been had with members of the Finance Committee around ways of doing this. It was noted that the Cardinal had noticed our suggestion for signage. Matt indicated that the youth group was prepared to fundraise towards the cost.

**Youth/Family Ministry:** It was mentioned that suitable resources would be required. Perhaps we should look at what the diocese has in the way of training (there was a program in days gone by).  
Matt is going to write up some thoughts on this issue.

**Sponsorship program:** with the school has been raised with Peter Ahern. Hugh had heard back from Peter, mentioning that there were some funds left over from the parish centenary which could be used for the good of students, and the problems several families have in providing extras for their student children.

The intention was for parishioners to sponsor students to attend catholic colleges once they left St Joseph's. Apparently it costs about \$1,000 per student each year for school dues.

Next year there should be a meeting of the financial folk from both the school and the parish to nut out how we may proceed.

**Connecting** school parents to the parish: there was some discussion about inviting Steve Coulam to the next PPC meeting to discuss ways of increasing the number of school children at Sunday mass in the parish, and graduating year 8 students into the youth group.

The connector has to be relationships, which are developed by common events.

How we reach out to these parents who want to send their children to St Joseph's but don't come to Sunday mass (or even recognise our PP!) is the key issue.

**The Boat:** from some years ago was mentioned as a great event to connect school and parish together.

**Youth Mass:** this is still on for 2018.

**Meeting closed** at 9:18pm.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7:15pm in the church.

(Reflection to be led by *Paulo*, proposed chair *Tina A*, Minutes *Youth*)

Minutes confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(PPC Chair –Peter Dawson)

## Synod Update

Last Saturday Father Maleko, synod representatives, representative of the Parish Pastoral Council, Liturgy committee and Finance committee came together to look at the Synod proposals and discern some first steps for furthering the outcomes of the synod. The group used the discernment process that was used at the synod to discern their shared wisdom and focused this on the two topics ‘Go you are sent to the peripheries of society’ and “Go you are sent to your own peripheries.” After a time of personal prayer and reflection on the topics the group shared their thoughts with one another. Belonging, being welcoming, being open was seen as necessary to being a Parish who out reached to the peripheries. The group shared its hope for better incorporation of youth and young families in leadership and parish life. It was seen that better links between St Joseph’s school community and Sunday Eucharistic community was central to this. The group acknowledges that the community grieves the non-attendance of many Catholic families at the Sunday Eucharist. They talked about some calculated risk taking being necessary if we as a parish are going to connect with people on the peripheries. That we as a community need to be like Saint Peter and get out of the boat and walk on the water with our eyes focused on Jesus.

### **Reaching out to the Peripheries**

To reach out to the Peripheries we need to know who are on the peripheries of our community who is excluded or feels excluded. We need to look at how we do this

The Group identified the need to advertise what we are doing to the wider community in order to welcome them into our community. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of LED signage as an immediate activity to help achieve this

The group talked about St Joseph’s parish being a welcoming community who make and take opportunities to reach out to the peripheries through some of its groups and activities, for example the work of St Vincent de Paul, and the Parish monthly dinner. Father Maleko reported that visitors to the Parish tell him they feel a welcoming spirit here. We want to continue and increase the activities that are already happening. Suggested new activities were a morning tea drop in in Church Foyer once a week and a music therapy group for older people and people suffering from the effects of a stroke or stroke like system. **Anyone wanting to help with either of these activities pleases talk to Teresa Homan.**

### **Go you are sent to your own peripheries:**

There was concern raised over families who may not be able to send children to catholic colleges due to financial barriers. The school will be approached to see if this was the case and look to the possibility of developing a sponsorship program to assist families to over-come this barrier.

It was agreed that greater connection with the Parish and school families was desirable and it was hoped that the school DRS could help with this by assisting with more involvement of the Children and their families at Sunday Mass. The Liturgy committee and PPC will be actively pursuing this in the New Year. It was suggested that the PPC should share with the school board what it felt would be some of the priorities in line with the synod outcomes that they would like the school to focus on in order to appoint a new principal who could help to achieve these priorities.

The need was discerned for the parish to develop pathways and links for youth and young families to become more active in parish life and leadership. Some thoughts on how this could be achieved were to develop a youth team with the possibility of employing a youth leader and to provide funding and opportunities for on-going formation of youth for ministry. To identify what young families need to feel more at home in St Josephs community and to encourage them to develop a family ministry with the possibility of a families coordinator being funded to facilitate this.

It was agreed to meet in the New Year and to invite an experienced Youth co-ordinate and members of Challenge 2000 to share their experience of youth work with interested people.

Father Maleko wants to encourage youth to take full responsibility for the preparation of a Youth and young families Mass once a month starting in the New Year in the St Peter Chanel centre.

We need to look at our buildings and see how best to utilize them or develop them in order to facilitate the synod outcomes.

There will be follow up Synod meetings in the New Year open to all parishioners. Some activities will be implemented now and at the beginning of the next year others will be investigated and developed over the next 12 months. While only two of the topics were talked about it was acknowledge that not all could be covered at once and that some of the other out comes will be addressed as things progress. Anyone who wants to share any idea of how to implement the synod outcomes are encouraged to contact the PPC.