

Minutes of Holy Spirit Parish AGM held Thursday 21st May 2015
Mary Bresnan Room commencing 7.30 pm

In Attendance: Father Joe (Parish Priest), Stan Fisher (PPC Chairperson), Lisa Keedle, Mary Ryan, Silvio Volombello, Maryann Street, Helen Konynenburg, Marita North-Coombes, Maree Buttler, Marilyn Grant, Jenny Philp, Michael & Kerry O'Leary, Peter Camilleri, Kevin O'Callaghan, Helen Scorgie, Christian Heskett, Don Schroder, Tina Toomey, Vin & Gabrielle Dwyer, Shirley Graham, Mark Johnstone and Ruth Frangeskakis

Apologies: Lyn Thwaites, Carmel Hill, Robin Walsh, Leon McKenna, Len Moore, Sean & Karen Woods, Kate Doherty, Marisa Smeed, Sue Wallace, Yvette Collins, Michelle Sherriff and Jean Smith

Stan Fisher welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending and submitting reports (a total of 24). Father Joe then opened the meeting with a Prayer and Opening Address.

A booklet of Parish Group Reports was produced for the AGM and made available on the night. Representatives from the Parish Groups present, gave highlights as follows:

Liturgy Team - acknowledged the Easter masses were well received and beautiful ceremonies. Indebted to Marita, Shirley, Jocelyn, Kerry and Lawry for all their time and efforts. There are now 5 people left on the team - need more people to lighten the load. Volunteers are very welcome. Peter Philp was acknowledged for his fantastic job with the sound.

Choir - expressed concern that their numbers are diminishing. There are only 12 members and they would like more men to join. They sing once a month at Mass and recently at the Parish Carols and Sportman's Mass. They will be singing at the Maroondah Fellowship of Churches at Heathmont Uniting on Pentecost Sunday.

Sunday Home Communion – Visit 3 nursing homes at the moment. May Weiss has cancer and really needs our prayers (she will not be undergoing treatment). Training for Eucharistic Ministers will be held on Wednesday 3rd June. Perhaps some may then like to join this ministry.

Fete – Mark Johnstone the new Chairperson introduced himself. He has taken over from Dale Sebire. There will only be a couple of changes this year – OHS Policy, new billboard advertising, trolleys and a golf cart to move things around and a couple of new rides. There will be no camels this year to protect the oval. An ATM machine will be hired at a cost of \$330 for the day. The Raffle will have a sub-committee to assist with follow up. Fete as always, need new members especially when school families leave. The Fete Committee was congratulated and all their hard work during the year acknowledged.

Evergreens The 4 days trip away for next year is already book out. Park Orchards/Warrandyte people have joined up with the Evergreens. Recent trip to the Shrine had 43 attendees.

St Vincent de Paul The group is ageing and are looking for new recruits. Currently have 22 members. Even though Ringwood/Park Orchards/Warrandyte is considered as middle-class and affluent, there are still many people in need requiring assistance. The Society always travel in pairs for safety and it is very satisfying and rewarding work. Bill Eccles is in his 63rd year and Ron Smith is not far behind. Call centre in Box Hill receives many requests.

Grief and Loss Ministry Marita attended the Last Taboo Project and found it very worthwhile. It was designed to enable community conversation and awareness on dying, death and organ donation.

Parish Website – A few changes have been made and it is getting stronger. The Spirit magazine is now in colour and Parish booklets, Prep and Sports Mass Photos , and Youtube videos of our Easter ceremonies have been added. A Parish Calendar (Google Calendar) is up and running. There are still concerns with the Privacy Policy. Might look at changing the front page and incorporate what we are doing in a more active way. Michael’s wonderful efforts with the Website were acknowledged. It is a great link to our Parish for those who don’t come to Church.

Pastoral Care – Visit the sick, ministering Eucharist and staying for a chat and practical home help is a major part of Pastoral Care. Also provide assistance with funeral masses and visits to Nursing homes spending time with those who are lonely and elderly. Meeting new parishioners and families and making them feel welcome is a wonderful part of this ministry.

Holy Spirit School – Academic results are very pleasing. School/Parish links continue to work well. BBQ area has been fixed, the oval re-turfed with artificial grass and shade sails have been placed over the play equipment.

P & F are to be congratulated on their social and food day events which contribute financially to the school.

OSHC is a non for profit organisation and needs to be more competitive. Numbers have been impacted due to other schools in the area opening their own OSHC facilities. Renovations of the old Community house started with the asbestos gone. Next stage is the drawings and working in with Council.

Spirit Magazine – Helen advised that her 4th edition is coming up. She is getting good support from everyone and there is a good feel for the magazine. Also looking at trying to bring back costs. Would like more items that make people think and broaden ideas for everyone in the community. Thanks to Mike O’Leary for his assistance in getting it on the Website.

PPC Report – Stan pointed out that the Charter is for 2015-2018, not 2014-2015. Many thanks to Mary Ryan in development of the Charter. The PPC assists various groups to achieve their goals. They are also in need of more members. Thanks to the Parish Staff for the amount of hours they put in with extra activities. Also thanks to Parish Personnel, Father Joe and Peter at the school for all their efforts and achievements. In return, Stan was thanked for all he did in his role on PPC.

Parish Finance Report – Silvio presented a powerpoint of the Parish finances. In summary, numbers attending mass and thanksgiving contributors are declining. Propose to send a letter to school parents by the end of June asking for financial assistance in the amount of \$5.00 per week. Deanery raffle is no longer viable and will be looking at different ways to raise funds. A Trivia Night is planned for 7th August to help raise much needed funds for the Parish.

Father Joe acknowledged and thanked Silvio and Don for all the hard work they do around the parish especially with maintenance issues.

In closing, Stan mentioned that he was disappointed with numbers attending the AGM, particularly from the Parish Groups and Parishioners. If anyone has ideas how to attract more attendees, please let him know.

The meeting concluded at 9.00 pm with closing song “Companions on the Journey”.