

Minutes of Holy Spirit Parish AGM held Thursday 17th May 2018
Mary Bresnan Room commencing 7.30 pm

In Attendance: Father Jose (Parish Administrator), Dominic North-Coombes (PPC President), Silvio Volombello, Helen Konynenburg, Marilyn Grant, Maree Buttler, Michael & Kerry O'Leary, Robin Walsh, Don Schroder, Marita North-Coombes, Marian McClelland, Jenny Philp, Tina Toomey, Duncan Arendse, Carmel Hill, Stan Fisher, Elma Gama, Etta D'Souza, Shirley Graham and Ruth Frangeskakis (Parish Secretary)

Apologies: Mary Ryan, Vin & Gabrielle Dwyer, Kylie Papadopoulos

Father Jose opened the meeting with a prayer.

Dominic North-Coombes welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Dominic in his PPC Report welcomed Father Jose to the Parish. He then acknowledged the great efforts of the previous PPC in particular Stan Fisher. Many thanks to Laurel Wheatley, Ron & Jean Smith, Marian McClelland and Kylie Papadopoulos for joining the PPC. During the past year the Divine Renovation Leadership Team was formed. There are plenty of challenges ahead with a 5 year plan to assess our Parish.

Many Parish Groups were not represented on the night.

A representative from the following Groups was present.

Liturgy Group – It has been a great year with new people and ideas. Christmas and Holy Week went very well with positive reports. Acknowledgment was made to Jocelyn D'Souza who after 20 years has now retired. Jenny asked for permission to buy her a gift. Don Schroder suggested an article in The Spirit magazine to acknowledge her work. They now need new faces on the team. Yvette is getting younger people involved. If anyone would like to help out in any liturgy preparation or coordination, even just on the odd occasion, please let the Liturgy team know.

Choir – The choir try to sing at mass once a month. They also sang at the Carols Night and Eastland. Trying to introduce new music. They enjoy their music mission and choir practice is held Thursday at 8 pm in either the Church or Chapel.

Rosary Group – Carmel Hill has bowed out after many years and has written an article for the Spirit Magazine. Dominic continued till Easter with the possibility of further continuation. After consultation with Father Joe, adoration hour is now held on Saturday morning. Carmel was thanked for her many years of coordinating the Rosary Group.

High Spirits – Etta D'Souza and Elma Gama introduced themselves as the new High Spirits teachers. Etta was a teacher at Holy Spirit for 6 years and now teaches at St Lukes in Wantirna. Etta takes the Tuesday class and Elma takes the Wednesday class. They hope to shortly bring in a new program and they work with Marianne the school REL to incorporate the school program. They have a waiting list for 2019. They were assured that the Parish staff are always here to assist them.

RCIA – Tina, along with Gloria and Lawry welcomed 2 people at this year's Easter Vigil. It is a long program and they meet once a week. Silvio suggested that they may be interested to see how the mass is prepared and what goes on behind the scenes from the Mass Captains.

Evergreens – Shirley Graham added that they no longer have bus outings due to high costs. Instead they car pool to local events at Mitcham and Karralyka Centre.

Spirit Magazine – Submissions are welcome at any time not just at the deadline. In order for articles not to be missed, please let Helen know if there is something coming up and she will make space available. Trying hard to cut costs. Two new advertisers have joined. Need to be aware of headlines due to journalists search to avoid problems to our Parish therefore some articles may not be published. Thank you to everyone who submits articles.

Grief and Loss – A letter of condolence on behalf of the Parish is sent to recently bereaved in liaison with Tina. On the 1st anniversary, a card is sent. The Annual Mass of Remembrance is held in November. Christmas can be a difficult time for these families.

Pastoral Care – Tina works 2 days a week visiting people in hospital, at Cherry Tree Village and taking home communion. The recently deceased register is updated. Also gives assistance to families with arranging funerals and communicating with funeral directors. Many thanks to Ada Volombello, Kerry O’Leary and Helen Scorgie for all their help and assistance.

Website – Overall, the website is getting less visits which is disappointing. Also disappointing is the lack of feedback from parish groups to update their web page.

Holy Spirit School – This is Duncan’s first full year of tenure. There is a strong demand for our school with its good reputation. A public thank you to Don and Silvio for all their work with the OSHC house refurbishment and new kitchen facilities which the Parish can utilise at any time. Very grateful to Silvio who is now doing the school maintenance. Currently have 460 students and a couple still on a waiting list.

Parish Finance Report – A powerpoint of the Parish finances was presented. Silvio thanked everyone on the Finance Committee. Stewardship donations are constant. Of the \$80K from the fete, \$30K will go to building a shed for fete and school storage with 6 shipping containers to go. The bottom area will eventually be asphalted to enable more parking. A note will go in The Word explaining all this.

The solar panels on the Parish House are starting to give good results.

Surplus of \$23K is the best result ever.

Every May mass head counts are done - this year the numbers are dropping.

The old parish house will be demolished. The developers have been approached with an offer to put a site office and tradies parking on the block. It was agreed they will pay for half the cost of new fence saving \$7K. In December when we get the block back it could be used for extra playground for school.

Parish photocopier has been re-leased to reduce costs.

Much needed air conditioning/heating has been installed in Parish House.

There will be a new name tag cabinet in the Church foyer.

Handrails will be installed leading up to the altar.

Don advised that after 40 years of the set up and clean structure the school will now set up the chairs in the Church. A Saturday morning roster is in place to ensure that the Church is ready for weekend masses.

Closing Prayer by Father Jose. Father thanked Dominic, the Parish Secretaries, the presenters from the various groups and Silvio for his finance report.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 pm.