

MQOF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)

Monthly Meeting Minutes (over Zoom)

Date | time 16/06/2020 ! 7-9pm

In Attendance

Father Reggie, Fr. Jack, Fr John-Paul, Deacon John, Ruth, Eva, Harlane, Ashley, Joseph, Sidney, Nathan, Cecil.

Absent

Phi Ngugen, Debojit Roy, Jude Miranda

Approval of minutes

Harlane

Agenda

- Opening Prayer, Welcome & Apologies
- Reading of Evangelii Nuntiandi
- Identify Pastoral needs of the Parish
- Other Business
- Closing Prayer

Opening Prayer & Welcome

- Opening Prayer by Fr. Regie
- Welcome by Cecil –Cecil shared his experience of viewing the recording of previous meetings and can see a patterns of ideas forming and the holy spirit guiding us through the agenda & discussions.
- Talked about the reason for the items on the agenda – There is a need to understand the pastoral needs in our parish and then ensure that we meet those needs – that is the reason for talking to the various ministries who will play a role in the meeting of those needs. The reason for reading Evangelii Nuntiandi is so that we also develop a common language among ourselves as a team – so that when we articulate plans to meet the pastoral needs we have a common framework & language.

Internal Formation – Read Evangelii Nuntiandi

Ruth ([The WHAT?](#)) The Church's missionary objectives have many different contexts – we are in a different context from the first proclamation of the good news – today many people are against the hierarchy of the church – many people are not practicing their faith – many people do not believe at all - while many others may believe strongly and are wanting to grow in their faith – i.e if we have to evangelise our parish community we will need different missionary tactics – taking in ecclesiology – Fr. Regie.

(Who should Evangelise?) Evangelisation is not just the responsibility of the pastors & the deacon – we all have the responsibility – every one has the duty to evangelise – **(How should we evangelise? To whom?)** In today's secular world – if we said we have 7 sacraments - they would laugh at us – instead to evangelise to the secular world - we have to live and show Christ's love in our approach and relationships – we have to show people they are loved - Sidney

(How should we evangelise? To whom?) One-on-one evangelisation in the way Jesus encountered and spoke to Zaccheus, Nicodemus – Today we have the Sacrament of penance where are Priests are evangelising one on one. During COVID devoted parishioners could not reach us. When it goes to wider community evangelisation – we could face problems like atheism, secularism. Our missionary activity then should not ignore the teaching of the church **(Danger)** – and when we evangelise we should evangelise through the 7 sacraments not using a secular approach. – Deacon John

(How should we evangelise? To whom?) We have to be welcoming as Jesus was – he was interested in people first – I have lapsed catholics in my own family – I have met lapsed catholics - it is our baptism duty to keep inviting them back to the church – there are people who are indifferent – it is hurtful – we should keep trying to bring them back - Harlane

(How should we evangelise? To whom should we target our evangelisation effort?) Love is the thing that we have to put on first – Doctrine & religiosity come later – even though we get nourished by them – at the same time if we have to sharpen our knowledge and tact applying different approaches for different needs - Cecil

(Who should Evangelise?) 1) It is our Baptismal duty to evangelise and the document tells us how to do it. We understand our duty but we get lost on the how should we execute – people want the same thing – but the method of going about it is completely different (an issue our parishes face) – **(Danger)** don't evangelise in a way that it becomes the trend of the day. **(How should we evangelise?)** Often the criticism of the church – which could be valid one – is that it doesn't respond quick enough – but what it is showing is that there are trends that may come and go – but our human nature never changes and so the responses to the eternal human challenges that the church addresses remains the same in spite of the differing veils under which they may appear - Nathan

(How should we evangelise?) Jesus approached Nicodemus and the lady at the well – when He evangelised there was unity in truth – if we tell people the truth today however we stand in different camps. However Christ wills our unity – so we have to tell the truth in love - Joseph

(How should we evangelise?) The virtue of charity is willing the good of the other – which in eternal terms is their salvation – but we are worried about this life without looking beyond to our unity in heaven – The truth will set you free – some people are broken, history of addictions – we need to have the guts to tell them the truth in love – maybe that could be the trigger for the change – Of-course we must finish the message with hope. No matter what we have done in the past – it is our desire to strive towards a different path – so sometimes drawing on our own experiences – we ourselves could be a testimony of hope by our witness - Ashley

Identify Pastoral needs of the Parish

Ruth - Identifying our needs in the parish – is a good beginning – we have the what we need – what needs to be spoken – but it is also about - **To whom should we target our evangelisation effort? and to whom**

should our priority be? – and how are we going to find out the whom?. Educating people to live the sacraments not passively – but living them to their fullness – underpins who and how we reach out.

Fr. Jack - A priority close to my heart is the young adults – not necessarily youth – those at Uni or beginning to work, or starting families deciding what to do – they are at a time in their lives when they are making big decisions – but without the formation of their faith – if we could have some influence on those decisions – the effect of the evangelisation would be greater. If you put faith into these big decisions then it will have a cascading effect for the rest of their lives on the other aspects.

Deacon John - What Fr. Jack said is true, if young people base their lives on Christ and they have a connection with the Church - given they are meeting a lot of friends at that age - they will have impact on others. Family is the root of the church – within the family there are men, women and children and all different age groups in the family. Taking the Sudan community as an example – most of them come to church together – the children will be the driver of bringing the parents to the church. It is like school when you call the parents to watch their children perform. Include family as a priority of the parish.

Joseph - Agree with young adults & young families – Narrowing it down even further to the men/fathers in those families – Statistics show that if the Father is practising & the mother isn't – there is a 70% chance that the children will practice – stats are lower when only the mother is practicing – hats of to the mothers who are the only ones who are praying for their families – but with limited resources the focus could be on the Fathers & the young men.

Deacon John - Children from the age of 14 start dropping off from the church and may remain away until the age of 25 – those that stick to the church upto 25 definitely remain with the church – At 10 & 11 years of age they may serve in the church but between 13 – 25 they fall off. We should be targeting this age group.

Ruth - I have been long thinking about having something for the women too – but that goes in family too – so we will keep it linked to the family.

Cecil – Youth are in the 13-25 age group and a strong youth group could be an attraction to the others in the age group and also act (as a previous example in our own parish showed) as a magnet for the parents too.

Ruth – how do we collect the stats and the data for the numbers in these groups – how do we know what these groups of people need and want – how do we find out what they want? – we can start something – but people need to be given a voice in what they need – maybe that way we will get a better outcome for these groups – we may know what they need but it is also important to ask them.

Fr. Jack – we obviously need to know from them what their needs are – but a survey or a meeting may not work for the young adults/youth/young men – it may only get a small sample that may not be representative of the cohort – we need to have our ears to the ground – what have they said to us in conversations – we need to have busy ears – Ruth said – the PPC's there for this – we have ownership to make an effort to meet new people – to identify those needs – that is an ongoing process – But with the target groups – while we are in COVID – it is better to do our planning – so that when we are out of the lockdown time – we are ready to enact our plans.

Ruth – we could use the Sacramental program and the families that come in there to have a conversation with families, young fathers – that is an opportunity to listen – the program is packed already – but we could have an evaluation at the end – Fr. Jack agrees – something Christina did well last year – invited different ministries to come and share – people joined the children's choir, people came to the bible study – they have something similar

Confession as a way of gathering information is not an option as Fr. Jack explained there are legal bindings not to do so.

Fr. Regie – we do have a basic understanding of the needs of the people – we are dealing with pastoral needs and the faith & spiritual journey of the people – whatever group we focus – we know – we listen to

them – everyone is different and has their own needs – if we wait trying to understand everything – one of the things that is bugging me – is the resources – who is going to commit?

Other Business

- The Sacramental program, RCIA, Baptism & the activities that our priests do in the parish are a given and will continue as our main evangelical activity. Recommended to have more families in the RCIA & in the Baptism ministries. Ruth & Jude, Deacon John & his wife, Paul Scott, Terri are all part of the Baptism ministry.
- Blacktown & South Blacktown Parish profile sent to the parish on 12/6 – it will give us the population demographics etc. – received from National centre for Pastoral research – could be used to overlay our Evangelisation planning endeavours.
- Roy has tendered his resignation to the PPC due to personal reasons in a letter to Fr. Regie.
- There is a person who has volunteered to assist in the RCIA – in God's providence - somebody who is connected to Robert Hadaad has said that we could engage him to provide us with guidance from an RCIA perspective

Closing Prayer

Fr. Jack

Actions

This meeting

- Call a meeting for all those who are willing to assist in the RCIA program including Deacon Rodricks from the Parramatta Diocese, Robert Hadaad – Fr. Regie
- Confirm Antoinette's availability for the Baptism ministry and whether she continues as the leader – Fr. Jack
- Invite more families to assist in the Baptism ministry - Ruth
- Check if Antoinette is going to leave the Baptism Ministry – Fr. Jack
- Deacon from Parramatta to talk to Harlane about RCIA – need to arrange – Deacon John

Previous Meeting

- ~~• Check if Antoinette is going to leave the Baptism Ministry – Fr. Jack~~
- ~~• Deacon from Parramatta to talk to Harlane about RCIA – need to arrange – Deacon John~~
- Get additional support for Children's Liturgy Ministry – Ruth M – Postpone action
- ~~• Create 3 minute videos over the next month – Priests, Ruth & Jude, Deacon John & Family~~
- Continue to read the Evangelii Nuntiandi & reflect internally – Whole Team
- ~~• A letter will be sent to the various ministries informing them that a PPC member will be visiting them with the purpose outlined – by Fr. Reggie Members should await the official communication from the Fr. Reggie to the ministries before they visit – Members of the PPC~~
- ~~• Ensure that Ministries will be constant item on the agenda – Ewa Cheetley~~
- ~~• Respond to Sidney's email – some of the outcomes decided at the PPC about his email – Ruth~~
- ~~• Send the letter that the Bishop sent regarding being the Deacon to the Sudanese Community – Deacon John~~
- Explore the possibilities to amalgamate the Legions of Mary of the Sudanese community and the normal Legion of Mary ministry in our Parish – PPC members

Important Dates to Remember

- *Next meeting 23rd July*