

# MQOF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)

Aug'21 Monthly Meeting Minutes

*Where:* Zoom invite; *Date | time* 26/08/2021 7pm-9pm

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## In Attendance

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Father Regie, Father John-Paul, Fr. Chadi Ibrahim, Eva Cheetley, Ruth & Jude Miranda, Joseph & Ashley Azzi, Cecil Fernandes, Blake Bano (Youth Minister - invitee), Sidney Lazum

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## Absent

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Phi Nguyen, Harlane Petersen, Nathan Fernandes, Deacon John

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## Agenda

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1. Welcome & Opening Prayer - Cecil & Fr. Regie
2. Youth update – Blake
3. Recap of the Parish Feast events – All
4. Last meeting of the current PPC team? - All
5. Inputs into the PPC Annual report - All
6. Other business
7. Closing Prayer

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## Welcome

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- Fr. Regie said the opening prayer
- Passing of the July'21 minutes will be done via a phone call post this meeting - as too short a notice was given for members to read it.
- Cecil gave an overview of the agenda.

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## Actions from this meeting & previous meetings

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### Previous meetings - outstanding actions

- Call the up PPC members to see who will pass the July'21 PPC minutes - **Cecil**
- Send link of the Parish Feast History video to members via the group chat – **Cecil**
- Respond to length of PPC meetings as raised by Fr. JP – **Fr. Regie, Cecil**
- Create an intercessory group of people dedicated to pray for the vision and mission in the parish - **Cecil**
- Get in touch with the Sudanese youth and leader – Action for Blake (after lockdown) - **Open**
- Talk to the various ministries listed in the Parish Bulletin and find out the outreach activity they are doing and add this to the Bulletin – Ruth –few more ministries to be followed up – **still Open**
- Have a notice board for the Ministries - where their information can be displayed? –**Fr. Regie – still open**
- Invite more families to assist in the Baptism ministry – Ian & Joanne Dulawan have also expressed interest - Fr. Regie to fup with Ged - **still Open**
- 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 – **still Open**

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## Recap of the MQOF Parish Feast Celebration

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- Members were encouraged to recap how they engaged with the Parish Feast celebrations and what was their feedback
- Eva attended the novena and enjoyed saying the rosary and then the mass after that – it was refreshing for her to think and it helped her rekindle her soul. The kids got involved with some activities on Sunday.
- Ruth – did the 9 day Novena with her family, her parents and her mother-in-law. Listening to the different names given to Mary was interesting to the children. The feast celebration was 3 hours and was completely enjoyed, the kids enjoyed the youth activities. She said - it was good to see the faces that we have not seen for so long & to see the community come together – it was fulfilling as a family event.
- Fr. Chadi – said it was good to have his start with the Parish with the Novena, though online was not his preference, He knows people like to connect with the Parish through this channel, so it is something that we have to continue.
- Fr. JP – good to be able to use technology to reach the people – maybe we need to shorten the program for next time.
- Blake – Novena was good, he solicited feedback on the Novena as he put it together. Mass was nice and solemn. 70 people joined for the feast day event at the start and by the end we had about 50, 30 dropped at the Kahoot game. Feedback that the program was a bit too long. We are the only parish in the diocese and probably in Australia that has done something like this online and shows our commitment to the Parish.
- Joe & Ash – attended the Novenas – and liked the material displayed during the rosary that helped them to meditate.
- Sidney – completely missed the Feast – due to personal reasons that affected his family both here and overseas.
- Fr. Regie – was amazed how we were guided by the Lord and the Holy Spirit with a concerted effort from the joint team & on how we reached our parishioners and our friends and relatives overseas. A big thank you to Ged who used his talents and skills to get us onto this new platform to broadcast the program. We could look at the many improvements required in the future, but I think it was a great to see how so many people gave of their time, effort & sacrificed so much to make this happen.
- Cecil gave an overview of the organisation of the event as a report back to the PPC :-
  - Kiran Saldanha was the Chair of the fund raising committee and overall in charge of the 3 committees as outlined below:-
  - Sarah was responsible for getting the sponsors and the advertising in the brochure – which generated \$27K. Blake was responsible for putting the physical brochure together, along with the material that went into it, liaising with the printer, and sponsors & advertisers in terms of the actual ads and formatting them in the brochure. These are now available for sale on the Parish Website.
  - Minette was put in charge of all the food – and she managed to gather all the different communities including the Filipino, Maltese & Indian cohorts – coordinating the upload of cooking & food videos & recipes onto the Parish website.
  - Content committee – Ged looked after the platform and the preparation of some of the videos, Cecil looked after obtaining content from parishioners and the relay of the content – it was heart-warming to see how people responded to calls for footage – with contributions from the different ministries, the Filipino community, the youth, the Indian community, etc. We even had a video on the history of Catholics in Blacktown for 170 years. All of these are available now through our links in YouTube & Facebook. Though all the videos were not of the same standard and we could have held some back we allowed all to be played to encourage the sense of community within the Parish.

- Rosary to recovery commences after the Parish Novenas and will continue every Friday 7-7.30pm
- Every Sunday we alternate between social & games night and fellowship/talk on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays and Bible study on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Blake is keeping close connection with the leaders in providing formation to them, working in collaboration with Parramatta Youth also around the same, particularly with regards to safe guarding and protection for minors. Blake is also producing material for the same and is happy to share with the PPC.
- Blake and youth will attend Diocesan wide trivia night on 27<sup>th</sup> Aug where 20 youth will represent the MQOF team.

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## Current PPC Term Expires in Aug'2021

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- Cecil communicated some decisions made by the PPC Executive committee to the members – listed below:
- The current PPC team was formally elected at the Annual AGM in September 2019. The term in the statutes at that point in time was 2 years and so August 2021 marks the end of this current team. The change in PPC membership normally happens at the MQOF Parish Annual General meeting (AGM). The current PPC team have made some changes to the PPC statutes on how the elections could be held. The Parish could have an AGM & a PPC election online – as we have been doing with other activities – however we believe that not all parishioners would have access to this media, or hear of the communications other than through our online channels – and so it would not be open & fair. Given this situation - 2 options were considered – (1) Extend the term of the current PPC membership, OR (2) Dissolve the current PPC membership and hold an election in person when the current Pandemic situation allows us to do so.
- In discussing option (2) we said to ourselves that this is a time we should not leave our Clergy team alone in providing Pastoral support to our Parishioners. They are continuing to offer mass & holy hour online and other pastoral services to our parishioners despite the physical difficulties involved in doing so. Dissolving our PPC team would leave a vacuum of pastoral support to the objectives of the parish (WWW – Word, Worship & Wall) & our clergy team and hence the option was voted as the non-preferred one. Option 1 also had its cons in the sense that current PPC members had committed to a 2 year term and should not feel pressured into staying on for another year – especially if their family & other commitments did not permit them to do so. Option (1) was chosen as the preferred option with allowing members of the PPC to choose or stay for the extended term.
- Also based on the Statutes (as Ruth pointed out to us) – Fr. Regie our Parish Priest could appoint replacements for those who chose leave making it easier on them knowing that their good work would continue with a replacement.
- Based on the above - each member was given a chance to communicate their decision (to leave or stay with PPC team for another year or till we are able to hold another AGM physically)
- Ruth indicated that she will step down from the membership due to emotional toll at work (COVID related) and crucial family time required to support her 2 children at crucial moments in their school years.
- Jude said that he will continue to be part of the PPC team and represent his family (given Ruth was stepping down) – due to their love for the church & our priests.
- Joe & Ashley Azzi – indicated that they will both step down due to their young family commitments and the pressure of the pandemic and the lockdowns.
- Eva said that she will stay and is willing to support beyond the next AGM.

- Sidney said that even though he has a lot of family commitments and work activity would increase his inter-state travel – he would remain in the PPC but may not be able to take a larger role than what he already has.
- Nathan was not present – but had already communicated through Cecil that he would step down – as he has physically moved to another parish after his marriage.
- Phi was not present – but in his previous discussions with Cecil had indicated that he would most probably step down. Cecil has not been able to get in touch with him and for the purposes of the PPC records will be deemed as having stepped down.
- Harlane was not present – but in previous discussion with Cecil had indicated that she would stay on the PPC team.
- Fr. JP – suggested that Fr. Regie had the option of not replacing all the vacancies and in that way we could have shorter meetings – this was noted as an action for Cecil.
- Cecil & Fr. Regie thanked all the members with a reminder that their contributions have not been small. Having the unity and alignment within the team was recognised as one of the greatest gifts from the Holy Spirit to our Parish. The Lord has guided us and we as a team have deepened our relationship with him through the PPC.

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### Content for Annual PPC Report

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- We will continue to use the WWW objectives of what & how we frame our annual PPC report to the parish.
- Fr. Regie – asked us to show our performance against the 3Ws. Members made suggestions under the 3 Ws
- W – WORD
  - Bible timeline consistency, Priest sermons, Catechesis in the bulletin
- W – WORSHIP
  - Reverence and sanctity of the normal masses and the practice of the right worship as led by our priests
  - Reverence and Sanctity of the Novena & normal masses. Clergy speaking the truth and standing up for the truth in their homilies.
- W – WALL
  - MQOF Parish Garden, St. Josephs Men’s group, Youth Ministry, Parents of the Youth ministry talking while dropping their children, # of people that attended the Holy week last year and how parishioners made place for the crowds that came (even though we were in the Pandemic). The fiesta online celebrations – that our Parish can delivery even in a lockdown. Examples of people preparing their families to contribute and be accolytes. MQOF Parish Garden was a blessing to a 13yo girl who had mental illness and the only place she could meet with her parents was in the MQOF parish garden. We know a tree by its fruit and it is apparent that the Holiness of the Priests and their words they live out – has resulted in people coming back to church etc. COVID19 has been the biggest challenge to the wall – but we still managed to come together. Our ministries and how they have engaged in the life of the parish and how they got involved in the Pentecost & Parish feast day.
- Cecil also proposed that we form an Intercessory group that would be dedicated to praying (only) for the vision, mission & intentions of the parish – this was agreed by Fr. Regie – given the success of a similar intercessory group for the Bible Timeline program. Recorded as an action for Cecil to create.

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## Closing Prayer

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- Fr. Chadi
- Meeting closed at 9 PM