

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE FLOREAT WEMBLEY PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

AGM 4 DECEMBER 2011

Role of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

“A Pastoral Council consists of the Pastor together with a group of parishioners chosen by the parish community. The Pastoral Council’s role is to promote the Church’s mission to live and communicate the love and values of Christ in our world. The Pastoral Council shares in the responsibility for the ongoing life and development of the faith community, working together with parishioners to provide support for their efforts to live as followers of Christ.”

PPC relationship with parish groups

An important focus of the PPC is to encourage and support the good work of existing groups within the parish. The PPC encourages the parish groups to continue its dialogue with the PPC to ensure that the PPC is aware of the special needs of each group. In this way the PPC can gain an overview of the activity of groups in the parish and identify opportunities to strengthen the effectiveness of the groups as well as improve its vision and planning for the parish.

Volunteers for ministry

The PPC is aware of the valuable work that the parish groups carry out. We are each called to share our talents and volunteering is a very visible way that individuals by their action communicate an effective way to live as Christians in society.

On occasions demand exceeds supply and it is noticeable that the same individuals will volunteer and multitask in different activities in the parish to fill the gap. The challenge is to raise awareness of the need to volunteer to the wider community to share the load and to ensure that there is effective succession after individuals retire from active ministry.

The year 2011/2012

Together with Brian Parry at the beginning of the year I made an appeal for new volunteers to come forward to support the existing programs in the parish and if luxury permitted to develop new initiatives. In particular the Children’s liturgy was at threat of closure due to lack of catechist. A direct response to that appeal was a set of volunteers to keep children’s liturgy happening. Beyond that there has not been a significant increase in volunteers which is disappointing but there will be an ebb and flow over the life of the community. The PPC itself was also hopeful of new blood to revitalise its members. Several members of the PPC including myself are past their use by date but continue to serve in recognition of the need. 2011 has been a less active one due to many and various demands made on PPC members. Nevertheless the PPC continued to take its role seriously and discussed and debated topics of concern and any matters raised by parishioners throughout the year relating to Floreat Wembley.

It is particularly pleasing that the Parish Website has been set up due in the most part to the efforts of PPC member Brian Parry. Parish secretary Prue Puppazoni has embraced this new world and assisted Brian in keeping the website fresh and updated. I congratulate them both on their efforts.

The PPC again organised a Parish excursion and this year it was to the new Cathedral in Bunbury. The feedback received was encouraging and we will certainly keep a look out for another opportunity. This is an enjoyable activity and builds deeper fellowship amongst the congregation.

Last year the PPC initiated the Christmas Lunch for invited seniors some of whom are not able to regularly attend Church due to infirmity but were able with assistance from volunteers to attend this one off event. Members of the PPC cook and serve the food. This was warmly received and the PPC will again hold a similar Christmas Lunch on the 18 November 2011.

The PPC is currently focusing on the 50th anniversary celebrations of St Cecilia Church taking place in 2012 and already has a sub-committee formed for planning purposes. The 2012 celebrations will be joyful but will only fully be realised with the active and enthusiastic involvement of the parish.

Retirement and renewal

Brian Parry has announced that he will stand down from the PPC but remain an active participant on the Anniversary celebration committee. Other members of the PPC have agreed to serve to ensure that continuity is maintained for the celebration year but beyond that I am aware that some members of the PPC will likely stand down. I am sure that able replacements will follow as they have done over the years and pray that they do so.

Conclusion

The PPC is acutely aware of the need to continue to develop interesting and fulfilling programs to ensure the development of an alive Christian community, actively engaged in Jesus' mission of service and influence in the wider world. We will rise to meet that challenge in the coming year and look forward to your continued support in our mission.

In closing I would like to thank Fr Wayne and my colleagues on the PPC Prue Pupazzoni, Phil Fort, Brian Parry, Andrea Brooke Smith, Andrea Whitely and Marie Yearwood for their ideas and thoughtful contribution throughout the year. I also thank on behalf of the Parish the magnificent volunteers who run the parish programs. Our parish would be a poorer place without your sacrifice. Your work matters a great deal and it is sincerely appreciated.

PATRICK WHIGHT

Chair of the Floreat Wembley Parish Pastoral Council

4 December 2011