



St Peter's Eastern Hill, Melbourne

Parish Council Meeting
7:30 pm 23 August 2023
St Peter's Vicarage

Minutes

1. Convening of Meeting: opened at 7.31pm.

We acknowledge the people of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations on whose unceded lands we meet. We respectfully acknowledge their ancestors and elders, past and present.

2. The Lord's Prayer was led by Fr Michael.
3. Attendance. Mthr Kathryn Bellhouse, Fr Michael Bowie (chair), Geoff Bush-Coote, Daniel Ferguson, Michael Gronow, Stuart Hibberd, Daniel Mitterdorfer (secretary), Terry Porter, Anne Scott-Pendlebury, Geoff Sutherland, Peter Wild, Craig Wilson. Apologies: Rachel Ellyard, Peter Griffin, Michael Upson.
4. Minutes of previous meeting: 5 July 2023 Approved via circular email on 18 July 2023. **Moved:** Daniel Mitterdorfer; **Seconded:** Rachel Ellyard; **carried.**

5. Vicar's Report

Fr Michael offered the following report:

First, welcome to Anne Scott-Pendlebury: you will recall that we agreed at our last meeting to invite Anne to fill the space triggered by Sue Wuttke's resignation; we are very pleased that she has accepted the invitation and hope she will stand for election at the Annual Meeting.

Our accustomed pastoral ministry, offices and Masses have continued to be offered; our daily Mass continues to be attended in pleasing numbers, including by Breakfast Programme clients. Also, though it may be too soon to say this, there are signs, finally, of an increase in the 9.30am Sunday congregation to a sustainable number. Thanks to Mthr Kathryn for persevering with that, through some very quiet Sundays. It is a lovely and well-resourced offering of worship and I continue to pray that it will grow. Do always remember to include it in any information you share about St Peter's.

It was very good that Mthr Kathryn was able to accept an invitation to preach at Christ Church St Laurence's Patronal Festival Sunday, 13th August, where I know she was very well-received and enjoyed the opportunity to learn about and join in worship with our sister parish in Sydney, a link which the Rector, Fr Daniel Dries, and I are keen to strengthen. I will be inviting Fr Daniel to preach at our Patronal Festival next year.

Di Clarke continues to oversee the Pastoral Group brilliantly; the Social Enterprise is, pleasingly, now beginning to fulfil its original purpose in offering training, and Taylor Fox is overseeing that very effectively. The Lazarus Breakfast Programme is also continuing to function admirably; Wayne Gleeson, who's had oversight of that for some time for Anglicare, is about to move on and we thank him for his work; Michelle Jebson, who's been working in the programme for some time, will be filling the role temporarily until a new appointment is made. Jason Keenan, who has also been working in the programme for a decade, is working very effectively in the half-time social worker role which the Foundation has supported. There have been a couple of incidents of threatening behaviour again recently, but thankfully no one has been hurt and the police have been extremely helpful. Numbers are settling at around 100 breakfasts per day after rising to nearer 120 in the last couple of months.

That leads me to our Foundation Dinner this Friday: it is good to report that over 100 people will attend this year to hear Bishop David and support the work of the Foundation; importantly they will include staff and volunteers from the Breakfast Programme and Social Enterprise, as well as representatives from the diocese, the La Trobe Society and our neighbour at the German Church, Pastor Kim Kiessling. Thanks are due, as always, to Krystyna Campbell-Pretty, for her excellent work and generosity in organising this and chairing our Foundation so efficiently. It is also good to report that in addition to the Lord Mayor, Sally Capp, addressing us, the recently appointed Governor of Victoria, Margaret Gardiner, will be present. Impressively she asked to visit St Peter's in advance of the dinner, so that she would have a sense of who we are and what happens here; she was with us for 45 minutes yesterday morning and showed a warm interest in the parish, its current work and its history; she is very interested in our links with La Trobe and the foundation of the city of Melbourne. We are arranging for a copy of Fr Colin Holden's book to be given to her.

DoM: Rachel Ellyard, Daniel Mitterdorfer and I met following the last meeting of this Council and Rachel has provided a Position Description for the DoM role, of which copies are available this evening. If you have comments on this, please share them with me by the end of Sunday. Meanwhile we continue to be extremely well-served by Rhys Arvidson with help from Louisa Billeter, Daniel Mitterdorfer and Sam Blanch in rehearsing and conducting. A wonderful variety of appropriate liturgical music has been added to our regular diet in the last four months and we now publish a music list on the website, which is a welcome development. We hosted a lunch here for choir members a couple of Sundays ago, which was a very convivial opportunity for conversation with them and sharing feedback. My thanks to Mthr Kathryn and Naomi Johnson for help with the meal and to Rachel and Michael for their participation.

Property issues continue to be addressed: the gas leak on the north side of the church has now been fixed and we will have the appropriate compliance certificate shortly. The intermittently faulty heater on the north wall will shortly be replaced and a new electrical switchboard has been installed near the west door, which removes a fire risk and also organises the switching of the lights more appropriately.

The CCTV system, which hadn't worked for at least two years has been restored to use and improved. Eugene is working on a plan to expand it, partly in support of our Anglicare staff and volunteers after recent incidents.

As I reported at the last meeting, I discovered that we also haven't had working smoke and fire alarms in church for more than two years: the set up was not fit for purpose and had simply been turned off. Eugene is close to obtaining a comprehensive quotation for two possible systems for consideration by the Foundation, which has generously covered the cost of all these items.

There will be an extra PC meeting regarding the budget on 20 September which will be chaired by Rachel Ellyard in my absence. As you know I'm about to take 5 weeks leave, during which time I'll be catching up with friends in London and Italy and also preaching at All Saints Margaret St, another sister church with which links can be developed. While I'm away Mthr Kathryn will take pastoral and liturgical responsibility for the parish and the Churchwardens will have general oversight.

Thank you for your continuing service on the Parish Council this year.

Daniel Mitterdorfer was requested to send a note of thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to Wayne Gleeson, offering our thanks for his work with the Lazarus Centre.

Motion: A motion of thanks was offered for the continuing efforts of their music ministry team, and their eagerness to explore new repertoire, including Mass settings in the vernacular. **Moved:** Daniel Ferguson; **Seconded:** Michael Gronow; **carried.**

Geoff Sutherland asked if the parish was still engaging visiting preachers for Mass; Fr Michael advised that whilst none were currently scheduled, we would continue to invite guest preachers.

Geoff Sutherland asked if there were figures detailing the amount pastoral visitation being undertaken. Mthr Kathryn responded that yes, Di Clark could compile a report giving the number of pastoral visits undertaken by the current team of five.

6. Wardens' Report

Minutes were circulated to Parish Council following last month's Wardens' meeting; no questions were forthcoming from those assembled.

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer was unable to be present however the monthly reports for June and July had been circulated to the Council with the meeting documents. Geoff Sutherland noted that he is occasionally surprised when reading of events in the minutes of other Parish committees, querying whether some of these items, particularly those that relate to financial decisions (e.g. the decision to liquidate the parish's share portfolio and invest the proceeds in the diocesan managed fund, noted in the Wardens' Minutes), should come to Parish Council for ratification before being actioned. Those present at the meeting felt that the decision-making responsibility should remain with those other committees and did not warrant coming to Parish Council for ratification.

Fr Michael noted that budget planning for FY23/24 will begin with next week's Finance Committee meeting, the results of which would be presented at the next Parish Council meeting (27 September 2023).

8. Any Other Business

- 8.1. Parish Archiving – Craig Wilson. Craig gave a brief outline about what material is currently stored in the parish safe, tabling a list of the contents of the safe. Craig also noted that the safe is nearing capacity. Fr Michael asked if we thought we needed more safe space. Craig responded that the most recent material stored in it is from 1992, as much since has been stored electronically. As a parish, we should still contemplate how to rationalise what is stored there. Craig will speak to Daniel Ferguson, given his experience in matters of information storage and reference, about what records could be moved/donated to the State Library. Fr Michael thanked Craig for his efforts in putting this documentation together. Craig will report back early next year with a plan.
- 8.2. Church Crypt – Fr Michael reported that he and Mthr Kathryn had recently spent time sorting and arranging the vessels that are stored in the crypt.
- 8.3. Next Parish AGM – Pete Wild – noted that at the end of his present term, he will have completed his maximum six concurrent years on Parish Council, and will need to take a year off.
- 8.4. Community Outreach – Geoff Sutherland noted, that going back a couple of meetings, there was a lot of discussion around community outreach. He asked whether anything is happening regarding restarting some of the local community engagement that he felt had dropped off. Geoff Bush-Coote noted that St Peter's had a long history of local community engagement. He put forward the idea of further promoting the good work that we do as a Parish. Other opportunities for engagement with non-parishioners include the possibility of offering a Blessing of the Animals at Mass (recently offered at St James the Great, in St Kilda), or perhaps a request to be featured in What's On In Melbourne, published by the City of Melbourne Council. Craig offered to ask Eugene whether he can submit a request for St Peter's to be considered for participating in Melbourne Open House 2024.

Meeting closed with the Grace at 8.18pm.

Next meeting: 20 September 2023 (note additional meeting date).

It was moved in a motion circulated via email on 20 September 2023 that these minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings. **Moved:** Daniel Mitterdorfer; **Seconded:** Anne Scott-Pendlebury; **carried by reply all email.**