

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF OTARI**  
**St Teresa and St Thomas More Churches**

**OTARI PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes Wednesday August 16<sup>th</sup> 2017 7pm St Teresa's presbytery

1. OPENING PRAYER : Rachel
2. APOLOGIES : Kevin, Sarah and Benny.
3. Short introduction from each member as this is a new committee post parish elections.
4. Minutes form the previous meeting 19<sup>th</sup> July were moved and accepted.
5. SIDE BY SIDE MENTORING  
Estelle gave the council a comprehensive update of the mentoring initiative recently started in the parish.

Otari has 8 people who have been trained by the Anglican and Catholic ministry for Families. The training included topics such as confidentiality, ethics, family relationships, active listening and maintaining boundaries.

Police vetting has been done and posters will be put up in the church foyers and schools. The focus is on families first but individuals will also be catered for.

Communication of this service is by way of information brochure or bookmark in the new parishioners pack, each of the school packs for new families and word of mouth. Any family that has had a recent baptism in the parish will receive a phone call 3 months post baptism to welcome them and inform them of this service. The same will take place for new families who enrol at Cardinal McKeefry and St Teresas. There will also be a morning tea twice a month at St Teresas and an afternoon tea at Cardinal McKeefry to engage with parish families.

Estelle has requested that we all be aware of anyone who may be in need of side by side mentoring and let the parish office know. There will be a regular slot in the parish and school newsletters and information on the website.

Estelle has requested that the mentors be commissioned at whichever Mass is suitable for them. Erwin to cover the St Teresas people and Rachel the St Thomas More people.

6. MATTERS ARISING
  - i. MISSIONZ Donation: \$100.00 has been sent as per the usual donation.

- ii. Jayne Sutherland who currently does the rosters for the Eucharistic Ministers (weekday masses and homebound) wishes to stop. Lagi has offered (with the help of her sister) to take over this role. The roster for Huntly and Spratt House is being done by David.

It was noted that more Eucharistic Ministers are needed to cover masses at St Teresa's.

- iii. Readers for the Vigil mass- deferred to the September meeting.

- iv. David has offered to show Erwin how to upload the PPC meeting minutes onto the parish website.

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS

- i. A financial statement will be presented by Peter Dykes at the September meeting.

- ii. Youth Ministry: Pat Gee explained how the new Parish Youth Liturgy Group would operate. Pat and Sarah Simmons have planned to start this group next term to meet on Thursday evenings in the St Thomas More lounge. Aimed at 9-13 year olds, the evening will include team building games, a spiritual focus on the Gospel and refreshments. Pat has access to resources and wants to involve the schools in promoting this group. There has been some interest shown by parents so far. The first notice has been published in the latest newsletter.

- iii. Aotearoa Catholic Youth Festival: Lagi explained about this upcoming event in Auckland later in the year. She has contacted young adults, including those in the Tongan community. The event is on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. A focus group will be looking at fundraising, promoting the event and options around travel and accommodation.

- iv. Lifeteen Youth Ministry Conference: This is for organising and planning resources for those involved in running Lifeteen groups. It will be held in Featherston in October, cost \$175.00. Please communicate this event at masses and Erwin to ask Lorraine Forrest to promote the event as well. Pat Gee may attend.

- v. Father's Day September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The CWL will be doing chocolates for all fathers on this day. There will be a morning tea at St Teresa's and a breakfast at St Thomas More as it is the first Sunday of the month.

## 8. STEWARDSHIP

- i. Hospitality: David spoke of the value of the Multi Cultural Mass and there was general discussion about how we can further celebrate our cultural diversity. With hospitality being one of the four pillars of stewardship it is vital that we respect, include and celebrate our rich diversity.

Father Ron stressed that hospitality is crucial to grow community especially for the elderly and we brainstormed ideas on how to do that. A summary of these ideas follows.

- Greeters at each mass to SMILE and Welcome people
- Say hello to a new person at mass
- Special welcome for new parishioners (including a welcome pack)
- Have 'welcome or hello' in different languages on the first powerpoint slide
- Events after mass with a speaker, perhaps a refugee, shared lunch
- Morning tea put on after mass by different cultural groups
- Special dinner for elderly where they can dress up, dine and dance
- Games afternoon-board games, cards, puzzles for young and old
- Family groups –some are active, new ones need a leader

#### 9. FATHER RON'S CORNER

Synod not far away, please continue to pray for the success of this event. Social Justice Week 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September. Challenge 2000 is running a week of events linked to Pope Francis' call to weave bonds of belonging in our local community.

Marriage Encounter weekend at Silverstream. Engaged Encounter in November.

Fiona Rammell hosting a Women's retreat in November.

The Syro-Malabar group formally based at the Newlands parish is now having mass and other events at St Thomas More church and lounge. This large group of over 250 families has had to stop using the Newlands church due to roof issues. Several members were welcomed at St Thomas More mass a couple of weeks ago and have been shown around the facilities. Please see website or foyer noticeboards for details of when the Syro-Malabar community will be worshipping.

#### 10. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from the Tongan community with a request for funds to purchase musical instruments. General discussion has agreed that \$500.00 be given to ECL Education for Christian Living Tongan Childrens Group for the purpose of buying musical instruments of the groups choice. Erwin to inform Catherine Vernon to make the funds available.

**NEXT MEETING : 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 7pm St Thomas More Lounge**

Minute taker and prayer for September meeting: Mary