

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

**OTARI PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes Wednesday February 21<sup>st</sup> 2018 7pm St Teresa's Presbytery

- a. OPENING PRAYER: Mary
- b. APOLOGIES: Erwin, Benny, Rachel, Sarah and Lagi
- c. Minutes from the previous meeting 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were accepted (apart from the spelling of Syro Malabar)
- d. MATTERS ARISING

Saturday 7th April was confirmed as the date for a **parish planning meeting**

- e. OTHER BUSINESS

- i. **Parish Census**

A discussion was held about the need to have a Parish census including;

- What is the purpose of the census?  
We would like to know how many people we have in the parish. Also, what skills, talents and time do they have that could be used for the good of the parish.
- Should this be a census at archdiocesan level, bearing in mind e.g. a number of our parishioners/ethnic groups sometimes attend mass outside our parish?  
There isn't a wider census planned so it was felt we should carry out our local one as it will provide invaluable information.
- Who is best skilled to prepare a census?  
It was suggested that there are people who specialise in preparing surveys. It was decided however that at this stage we would have a look at what we have done before, alongside the "Stewardship of Time and Talents" leaflet from the Catholic Parish of Bundaberg. Fr. Ron will also try to find out what other parishes are doing.
- What form will the census take?  
As well as the traditional paper format it was suggested we should also give people the opportunity to complete it online.

- It was agreed we must follow up with people after the census.
- Subsequent to the meeting Catherine in the office kindly forwarded 2 earlier censuses taken in the parish, in 2012 and 2015 for the Parish Council to use when planning the new census.

**ii. Synod outcomes**

It was felt we need to get started on working through the Synod outcomes, topics 1,2,3 and 12 being compulsory. It was agreed all council members should this month look at topic 1 – Go, you are sent... to the peripheries of society. We will read the directions and priorities on page 8 and the related practical actions on page 18 and 19. We must then think about how this relates to our parish in particular and be prepared to suggest what we think most fit the needs of our parish. Mary to send out a reminder to parish council members one week before the next council meeting.

**iii. Update of what is happening in the parish at the moment**

- Comments have been made that the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of the current St Teresa's church was not sufficiently celebrated.
- Father Ron will discuss with the finance committee whether improvements could be made to the church as part of the celebrations. For example, we could look to fund raise for the picture windows. Perhaps we could have a local artist design new windows, maybe dedicated to different nationalities?
- Father Ron has just got back from his great walk.
- The sacramental program has started, with approximately 12 children from Otari parish.

CONCLUDING PRAYER: Mary

**NEXT MEETING : 21<sup>st</sup> March 7pm St Thomas More**