



# Parish Council Meeting Discussion Notes

Tuesday, 24 July 2018

## 1. Welcome

In attendance: Fr Chris, Fr Isuru, Fr Adam, Clarissa Finan, Deb Cummins, Chris Bounds, Francesca Guidotto, Jenni Payne, David Payne, Paul Moreton, Marie Ryan, Helen Cozzi, John Vaux, Julia Goff, Marlene Wallace, Mary Branagan, Mike Flanagan, Tony Thorpe

**Apologies:** Tosca Galluzzo

**Prayer:** Mission Prayer

## 2. Towards a new Constitution (led by Chris Bounds):

- a new Constitution has been on the Leadership agenda for 12 months
- the first Constitution was written at the time of the formation of a new model of parish for Peakhurst. Amazing things have happened in this Parish
- Archdiocese of Adelaide health check  
<http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-people/office-for-renewing-parishes/eight-gospel-characteristics>
- we need to consider sustainability and future directions for the Parish, charisms we haven't engaged, people who are now missing from active participation in the Church
- viability of a parish is not about size but the energy to grow
- there is a need for generational renewal – development of new leaders
- leadership of a parish is now much more complex – role and issues, leadership is entrenched in management not leadership
- the Parish does not function as a social centre, declining Mass attendance
- vision of Pope Francis in Evangelii Gaudium – new vision for parish
- the Pope's seven challenges  
**What does it mean to each of us to accept these challenges?**
- **Take the Constitution away and discuss it with your teams**  
**Does it express the way to go forward?**
- in the first Constitution the Leadership Team (LT) took on the administration of the Parish – a role previously 'assumed' to be part of the role of the PP
- the Operations Team (OT) are the people who get 'stuff' done
- communication in the Parish needs to be improved e.g. an active website
- we need more formal processes, which are expressed in the Constitution
- effective succession planning is required
- last strategic plan 8-9 years ago
- we need a vision for today
- policies and procedures need to be recorded e.g. WHS, Child Protection, Induction
- renewal of Ministry and transfer of leadership are to be addressed
- people don't step forward/ volunteer as much these days

- marketing is needed – to find a way to motivate parishioners to respond to the request to do something that is relevant, to contribute more actively to the life of the Parish
- Lending a Hand and St Canice’s volunteers get instant gratification – lots of volunteers; catechists – struggle to find volunteers; LT – work is hidden
- the LT needs to be future-focussed
- many people don’t feel the need for ‘community’, ‘the Church’
- we need to remind people of what we gain from being involved, when we give we gain a sense of belonging from different experiences
- the message we need to give to others is that involvement nurtures us
- the LT needs to coordinate the work of Ministries but ownership is at another level and the ultimate decision is made by the PP
- the focus of the LT is to consider the vision – How do we become a ‘fit’ community?
- OT gathers together people involved in the admin work of the Parish, meet on a regular basis, carry out tasks within a budget determined by the Finance Team
- OT need a scope of works, parameters of authority delegated to get things done
- OT reports to the Head of the LT
- Is this model operating anywhere else? Probably not.

### **3. Fr Chris**

- admin was never in the job description of a priest, what the LT was entrusted with should have happened anyway in parishes
- the priest is ordained to lead, to preach and administer the Sacraments
- the priest leads but never alone, it is a co-responsibility with key people in the parish, they lead together
- we need to separate out the day-to-day operations and leadership
- in most parishes the Parish Council just reports on how things are going
- ‘Heart’ change is required for a parish to be renewed; responding in a new way with new people responding
- the sense of community was very strong in the parish when the initial change occurred, it was a powerful motivator – this is not the same today
- young people get involved when they have a personal encounter with Christ – they experience a ‘heart change’
- if leadership is right then ‘heart change’ occurs
- different people have different gifts
- meetings ought to be fun and people need to work together

### **4. Chris Bounds**

- Where do the Ministries fit in?
- Parish Council needs to get up and running again, meet regularly and share
- Ministries go to OT when they need something done
- Secretary – Executive Officer of the OT

- LT discussion: What do the people need? How do we make Alpha happen in the Parish? etc.
- Marketing is important - *Why do people want to be involved?*
- Deb: Baptisms take place in an empty church, welcome them into the community???
- Baptisms during Mass??
- Pope Francis' Vision
- Copy of current and proposed Constitutions to be sent to members of various ministries, as well as parishioners who may want to look at it

#### 5. Plenary Council 2020 (led by Fr Chris)

- <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>
- 1937 last Plenary Council in Australia (others in 1885, 1895, 1905) –among the decisions made were that every parish should have a Catholic school and Pastoral Council in the parish
- **What is the Church going to be like in the future?**
- **What kind of restructuring can happen to channel people into mission?**
- secularism, decline in practice in Australia
- at the Plenary Council legal decisions are made by a small number of people based on discussions informed by input from parishes
- women priests and married priests are NOT on the agenda
- need to work on genuine dialogue within the Church – we are not good at this at the moment
- our Parish needs someone to convene, to gather information and follow the process on the website, Fr Chris happy to promote
- need to include people who are 'absent' from our church, we need to hear from them
- at Mass - play the videos on the Plenary Council website
- people are unaware of the role and purpose of the Plenary Council
- much of the current conversation in the Church is about self-preservation instead of being centred on the person of Christ and agents of his love in the world
- the decisions of the Plenary Council will be ratified by Rome, the decision-making happens within the Council
- **SUBMISSIONS ARE TO BE MADE ONLINE BY 6TH MARCH 2019**

Meeting closed at 9pm

Notes by Jenni Payne