

HIBISCUS COAST PARISH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
10 SEPTEMBER 2017

AGENDA

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous Parish Annual General Meeting held on 12 June 2016
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Parish Priest's report
7. Finance report
8. Other reports
9. General business

**MINUTES OF THE HIBISCUS COAST PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, OREWA ON 12 JUNE 2016**

Present: Fr Pat Brady, Deacon Greg Murphy (Chair) plus 62 parishioners.

Apologies: Anne Cambie, Bernadette Straka, Pam Marlow, Trish Cochrane, Lee Duggan, John Laan Elizabeth van Kampen and Tom Sellmeyer

Welcome: Deacon Greg Murphy opened the meeting and invited Deacon Murray Morgan to pray the opening prayer.

Report from Fr Pat Brady: Fr Pat presented his report and a copy was made available to all present. He commented on the fact that the Parish Pastoral Planning team completed their year's work at the time of the 2015 AGM, a year where they reviewed the life of the parish and set in place a course of action for the establishment of a new Parish Pastoral Council. However, when nominations were called for only one nomination was received and no council was able to be formed.

Father spoke of groups that have had to go into recess because of lack of replacement office bearers and thanked those groups for the dedication to their work and the benefit they have brought to members of the parish.

Fr Pat also spoke on the progress being made in other areas of parish life and expressed his appreciation to all those people who are taking part in religious education programmes, including Stella Maris.

He spoke of the changes at St Francis Church and the renovation and refurbishment of parish buildings and facilities. He thanked the Finance Committee for their time and energy given to various projects, all on a voluntary basis.

Fr Pat finished his presentation by expressing his thanks to all the groups and committees contributing to the life of the parish.

Financial Report: Douglas Birt presented the finance report.

A Finance Team Report for the 2016 Parish AGM was printed and distributed in the parish several weeks before the meeting. There were no comments on the finance report.

Social Justice: This report was distributed and Catherine Birt commented on it.

St John's Prayer Group: This report was distributed and Brian Hines commented on it.

Communion to Sick: Deacon Greg Murphy spoke to his report and explained hospitals no longer ask patients to state their religion, it is up to the patient to request a chaplain.

Marie Carswell commented from the floor that Catholics need to specify they are Roman Catholic not just Catholic and Fr Pat Brady explained the reason why this is.

Reports were also received from the Liturgy Committee, St Francis Prayer Group, and Meditation Group.

Helen Reinen spoke about the work of the Parish Formation Team.

General Business:

- Colin Henry asked whether collections were able to meet budget and would it be possible to pay a youth leader from the budget?
- Douglas Birt replied that \$4,000 was set aside for youth.

- Iris Barrow commented on the spiritual aspect of being in hospital – patient needs to bring up spiritual needs. She also commented on the need for a buddy system for new parishioners.
- Ken Bridle spoke about apathy in the parish – groups no longer available and the need to get behind parish activities.
- Tania Alofaki told the meeting how she has 14 Catholic young people visiting her home and how she also welcomes young people off the streets. Tania’s daughter, Josephine, is a student at Orewa College and said she would like to see a youth group meeting in the church.
- Brian Hines commented that youth require somebody who is inspired to attract young people before forming a committee.
- Jim Elliston spoke to apathy in the church.
- Ian Norrie commented on how, in his experience, other churches are warm and hospitable.
- Jocelyn Owens commented on the different handouts at church and asked about the need to use such high quality material. Fr Pat Brady replied that the paper is donated and not paid for by the parish and explained the reason for the different colours. Jocelyn commented on what is happening at St Francis and asked if alternative arrangements had been made. Fr Pat answered that no decision had been made.
- Barbara Hines commented on the Madagascar appeal and how enough money came in for four water pumps rather than for just the one fundraised for.
- Brent McConachy advertised the ecumenical Men of Prayer group.
- Gary Miers asked the question “Does the parish have a plan to move forward for a parish council?” Fr Pat answered this question and suggested that it is up to the laity to volunteer for committees and not the priest’s job to set up and run committees. He reminded the meeting that only one nomination was received last year for the parish council.
- Peter van Kampen expressed concern re the imbalance in power he believes has existed between Finance Committees and PPCs in the past and suggested this be addressed in future. Fr Pat pointed out that the Finance Committee is an independent committee formed by the parish priest and serves a different role to the PPC. These committees are expected to communicate and work together in the interests of the parish.
- Geoffrey Treanor volunteered for the Parish Council and 9 others came forward:

Peter van Kampen
Peter van Kampen
Ian Norrie
Iutita Rusk
Gary Miers
Colin Henry
Tania Alofaki
Patricia and Geoffrey Treanor

Deacon Greg Murphy closed the meeting with prayer.

Hibiscus Coast Parish

Capital and Maintenance Project Report for 2017 AGM

The annual parish budget for routine operation is in the order of \$220,000. This is almost 100% funded by parishioner planned giving and donations. Out of this, one third goes to supporting the Priests (including the retired Priests in the Diocese), there is an allocation of 15% that goes to the Bishop, and the remainder goes to general operating expenses (including maintenance), repayment of loans, and employment expenses for office staff.

We have had a number of projects over the past four years that we have funded by way of loans from the Diocese, bequests, and by the sale of the property at 182 Centreway Road. These projects have included a combination of capital works and major maintenance. They are:

Replacement of St John's church membrane roof	\$230,000
New sound system for St John's church	\$42,000
Alterations to the Parish office and meeting room	\$70,000
Presbytery refurbishment	\$68,000
St Francis church memorial gardens	\$32,000
St Francis church alterations	<u>\$419,000</u>
Total	<u>\$861,000</u>

In our ten year maintenance and renewals plan, we have identified essential works of \$343,000 as being required up until 2026. The projects that are included in this plan are:

Presbytery and Office roof replacement	\$42,000
St Francis church carpet replacement	\$26,000
Hall roof replacement	\$30,000
St Francis church exterior painting and roof repairs	\$20,000
St John's church carpet replacement	\$50,000
St John's church painting	\$50,000
Other miscellaneous projects	<u>\$125,000</u>
Total	<u>\$343,000</u>

In addition to project work, we continue to undertake routine maintenance using a combination of contractors and volunteer labour. Over the past four years, our typical annual maintenance costs for equipment, buildings and grounds has been in the order of \$19,000.

Some of our project work has been partly or fully funded by very generous parishioner donations or bequests. Examples of this are the St John's sound system and the St Francis memorial garden.

Our volunteers undertake a range of routine jobs such as repairing chairs, painting, gardening, cleaning gutters etc. as well as some of the more challenging items such as servicing the electric window operators at St John's. Volunteer labour saves us in the order of \$10,000 per annum and we would particularly like to thank those volunteers who continue to freely donate their labour.

Our essential planned project work will generally be undertaken by contractors. These projects will however need funding, and we will be looking at ways to do this over the coming months.

Terry Cochrane

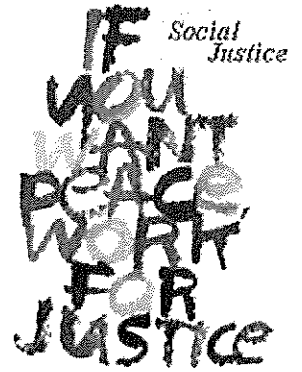
Maintenance Coordinator

Parish Finance Committee

August 2017

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE PARISH 2017

We are a small group in the Parish but we continue to keep in touch with interested people by means of an email group. Often we receive news of upcoming events and interesting articles from the Diocesan department and we send these out to the group.



On Social Justice Sunday 2016 one of our group presented a homily relating to the theme "we all have a migrant story, fostering a culture of encounter". Also included were some pictures of refugee's backpacks. When the first of these was projected onto the screen there was an audible gasp from the congregation at the meagre contents.

In September/October 2016 The Parish Faith Formation team encouraged the Social Justice group to run a series of 6 nights studying Laudato Si, the Pope's encyclical on Care for our Common Home. A core group of about 15 came to most of the sessions having read the text prior to discussing the listed questions. We agreed that we were actually those who already subscribed to the ideas put forward by Pope Francis but our awareness of the need to live sustainably with creation was raised.

In February 2017 a couple of us went to the annual Social Justice Retreat day at Long Bay "Living an Integral Ecology" run by Father Neil Darragh. This was excellent and gave us a good start to the year. We also regularly attend the Diocesan meetings of the Justice and Peace Commission. At the latest one we had a very moving presentation from Judge Emma Aitken about the work of the Alcohol and other Drug Treatment Court which is halfway through a 5 year trial in Auckland and Waitakere courts.

This year we again facilitated the running of the Caritas Lenten programme over 6 weeks. A core group of parishioners attended and focused on the Sunday readings each week together with material prepared by Caritas. This was valuable as we were better prepared for Mass each Sunday, had thought about some justice issues and also formed valuable bonds with others in the parish. We were able to run two groups this year – one in the afternoon and one in the evening which catered for more people. We also helped in running the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday using the material from the Caritas website.

A project to distribute pumpkins which were rejected for export was undertaken with contacts from Gisborne. We were able to collect two one tonne loads and give them out to De Paul house, Love Soup Whangaparaoa, the City Mission, Care and Share and Warkworth food rescue. Fortunately some transport companies sponsored the cost of sending them to us.

Another project undertaken has been the promotion of Tui Motu Interislands magazine. We arranged to speak about it at Mass and have sold individual copies for the last 3 months and encouraged people to take out a subscription. This has been well received and a number of new subscriptions have resulted.

If anyone is interested in joining the email group they can contact me at crbirt@gmail.com

Catherine Birt

REPORT TO PARISH AGM - ST JOHN'S PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group has had an eventful year having hosted a year long HSI Discipleship School. The School was presented on DVD and involved basic introduction to Christian/Catholic life moving in depth through the Bible, the Catholic Catechism and Church teachings. The emphasis was on Evangelization of ourselves then outwards to others. The course included growth in prayer and understanding the Scriptures. The participants over the year ranged from 25 – 40 people from several teenagers to 'elders'. All felt they grew in their faith and love for God, and formed a deeper prayer life through the course.

The HSI Discipleship School originated in Dubai and is well presented to be understandable for all ages and life styles. The School is approved by Bishop Patrick Dunn and has been started in several Auckland parishes during the year. Some parishes are now into their second schools.

During the Alpha Movie series the prayer group has suspended the usual weekly meeting in favour of helping out and participating in Alpha for the 10 week duration, after which the prayer group will resume its usual format. All parishioners are welcome to join in. We sing praise & worship hymns, study Scriptures, the Sunday Gospels, share insights, pray for our petitions and provide personal ongoing support for one another.

Team leaders are: Brian & Barbara Hines, Margret & Francis Conroy, Helen Kehoe, Iutita Rusk and Joanne Wilson.

ST FRANCIS PRAYER GROUP AGM REPORT 2017

We meet at St Francis Church Manly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm-8-30pm.

We are all involved in different ministries within the Church as well as in the community.

During the period of renovations at St Francis we met in each other's homes.

All of us are involved with Alpha which is being held in the Parish and finishes at the end of September. Our Tuesday evening prayer meetings are on "hold" until then.

If anyone would like to join us on a Tuesday we'd love to see you.

Our programme is Prayer and Praise (singing), and also the Sunday readings which are read and discussed.

God Bless you all.

Pam Marlow
For St Francis Prayer Group

Faith Formation Team- Alpha Report

The Alpha Course is an evangelistic course which seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and discussion. It is described by its organisers as “an opportunity to explore the meaning of life”.

At the time of writing this report for the Parish AGM we are about 50% into the first Alpha programme that has been held in the Parish in the last 10 years. From the Faith Formation Team’s perspective running an Alpha Course was one of the easiest ways to give parishioners , prospective Catholics and non-Christians, the basics of Christianity.

The course was widely advertised in our Parish, plus East Coast Bay’s Parish and Warkworth Parish. Many thanks goes to the Principle and staff of Stella Maris Primary school for allowing us the use of their facilities to host a “ meet the parents morning tea” and having an advertising poster placed on the school fence for a month.

The Course has attracted 56 participants from both inside the Parish and from outside. Whilst one or two of the participants have completed the course as far back as 30 years ago, most are new to “Alpha” and finding it challenging to participate in . We would have loved to have had more parents who have children at the school as participants, but alas it was not to happen this time.

Many thanks go to the St John’s and St Francis’ Prayer Groups who have provided the time and people to be the Team Leaders in the 6 smaller groups. We also take the time to thank all the helpers who have helped set up, serve up and cleaned up at the end of each night. A special thank you goes to Theresa in the Parish office for being so helpful and providing assistance at the drop of a hat through all the trials and tribulations as we got the show on the road . Many thanks to all of you who have faithfully baked and made desserts each week for the participants.

Where to from here? We already have people asking us if there is going to be another “Alpha “ next year in 2018 . We think there is scope to evaluate an “Alpha Course for young people as well as the other mix of courses available from Alpha New Zealand. For the participants who finish the course, we know from past experience that as “new seeds” they seek ways to their new evangelical calling and we would like to see them fall on fertile soil and grow rather than the alternative.

‘Servant Living’ is doing what needs to be done, so the purposes of God can be done. God’s purposes don’t get done unless people do what they are being called to do.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION REPORT 2017

The year started with four groups in the parish but when St Francis was closed for renovation the Monday evening group came to an end. The Wednesday group moved to St Stephen's where it was well received and attended by our Anglican brethren. That group is now back in St Francis with quite a few Anglicans attending on a regular basis.

In June, Vincent Maire stepped down from the role of National Coordinator for the NZ Community for Christian Meditation although he remains a trustee and is on the national committee.

We believe that 30 minutes, morning and afternoon, spent daily in meditation is one of the best ways of letting God turn us into the beings for which we were created. He is living in us and we have only to sit still and gently repeat our mantra to become more like Him. Too simple? It is that simple. Will power is the only thing that makes it difficult. Once we decide to do it, it is simple. Do we see a great change in ourselves? We hear our friends say we are more patient, more tolerant. Sometimes we even notice that our blood pressure has dropped! But whatever the changes or lack of changes, it is a wonderful practice. We agree that meditation is as natural to the spirit as eating is to the body.

The World Community of Christian Meditation made a huge decision last year. They decided to move their 'Head Office' from London to France and after many prayers and much searching, bought a property in France which we now know as Bonnevaux. It is only a short distance from the Paris Airport. Originally, a Benedictine Monastery, there is a great deal to be done to it. We are blessed to have DP Architects in Singapore, an internationally renowned firm (who have meditation daily at their Head Office) giving their services freely to the community. Jeff Seeck, a German Meditator and engineer, has given his skills on the team as Project Manager. We see all this generously donated talent as a sign of the presence of the Spirit in Bonnevaux.

Times and places where our weekly meditation groups meet are in the Newsletter. For further information feel free to call Jacqui Driscoll, 427 0426. Anyone is welcome to pop in and experience meditation in a small group.

ORDER OF FRANCISCAN SECULARS' ANNUAL REPORT 2017

This year our "Corpus Christi" (Body of Christ) fraternity continued to meet monthly in St John's hall, on Sunday afternoons from 3.00pm – 5.00pm.

About 12 members attend, including our Spiritual Assistant, Fr Vallerian de Souza OFM.

Sadly this year, we lost to sister death, two long-serving members, David Anderson and Alma Schischka, who gave such a lot to our fraternity and Parish, during their many years among us.

On 3 October 2016 we celebrate the 'Transitus' of St Francis, inviting the parish to share in the re-enactment of Francis' transit from sister death to life.

This was followed by Holy Mass celebrated by Fr Pat Brady for St Francis Feast Day. We offered morning tea for the Parish.

Members continue to be active in many ministries eg. Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Readers, Sacristans, Catechists for RCIA and Baptism Programmes, Meditation and Eucharistic Adoration, Stations of the Cross during Lent, Finance Team Assistant and serve on the roster for morning teas after 10.15am Mass.

We thank Fr Vallerian and Fr Pat Brady for their inspiration and service, as well as Fr John and our deacons Murray Morgan and Greg Murphy.

Margret Conroy
Secretary OFS
Hibiscus Coast