

**Our Lady Of Grace Catholic Church
Kitchener Street, North Beach.
WA 6020.**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
SATURDAY THE 25TH NOVEMBER 2023 IN THE PARISH HALL.**

The meeting commenced at 9.10am and was Chaired by Mr Stephen Lee.

Stephen explained that he was having technical problems trying to connect his home computer to the screen in the Parish Hall and apologised as he would not be able to project his Reports onto the screen for this meeting.

He opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present :

There were 26 parishioners present at the meeting - all signed the Register.

Apologies :

Apologies were received from - Tony and Rose Clarke, Juanita Halley - Wright and Gabrielle Doyle.

Minutes of this Meeting :

Stephen Lee told the meeting that Des Wright would be taking the Minutes of the Meeting.

Minutes of the Previous AGM :

Stephen Lee had a copy of the last AGM Agenda and Minutes, held on 19th November 2022 which he summarised for the meeting.

Topics covered from the last AGM were:

The Parish Priest Report.

Parish Finance Committee Report.

Parish Pastoral Council Elections.

Safeguarding.

Parish Website.

Parish Master Plan.

Matters Arising from the Last AGM :

In response to a question raised by a Parishioner , Stephen told the meeting that the Restoration of the Presbytery would be discussed later in the meeting.

He then read out a list of the items on the Agenda for this meeting.

Agenda Items :

Parish Priest Report :

Father Hyginus then gave his Report to the Meeting.

In his report Father commented on the progress made in the Parish and how this was a result of the generosity and sacrifice of the members of the community.

He also expressed his gratitude to the Parish Pastoral Council Members and highlighted the various Committees that they had been able to set up. These included the Media, the Master Planning, Social and the Maintenance committees.

He noted that a Committee had been set up to solve the parking challenges that we have in the community.

He mentioned that the Master Planning Committee had done some tremendous work and that the Parish Pastoral Council is following up on their recommendations.

Father then commented on the tremendous job that the Parish Finance Committee had done in streamlining the Parish accounts and noted that the electronic collection machines were working well.

He thanked the group of ladies who were responsible for organising the morning teas after Mass and other functions held in the parish.

Included in his thanks were the Saint Vincent De Paul group led by Vince Thompson.

The Walking group, the Card School and the Art group were starting to gain traction due to the efforts of Madeleine Sullivan.

Father then thanked the Legion of Mary group, the Eucharist Adoration group, Christian Life group, Christian Meditation group and the Rosary group for all of their good work.

Sue Wright was thanked for her work with the Faith Formation programme.

He also thanked the Parishioners involved in the Lent and Advent groups for their efforts.

Father also mentioned the efforts of the Acolytes, the Altar Servers, the Choir and the Cleaners plus the good work being done by the Power Point operators, the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and those who took up the collections.

Clare Broad and her team were thanked for their work with the Sacrament Programme and the Children's Liturgy .

He made special mention of the Christmas carols held last year and that he was looking forward to this years event to be held on the 10th December 2023.

The Safeguarding Officers were also thanked.

Deacon Paul was thanked for his help and inspiration to many in the parish.

All the parishioners who helped with the Garden and Parish maintenance were acknowledged and thanked.

He concluded by thanking all of the Community for their generosity and sacrifices.

Parish Finance Report :

Kirsty Shaw then gave her report on the Finances of the parish.

As the monitor was not able to be connected to her computer she gave a verbal report.

Kirsty highlighted the Revenue received this year was approximately \$ 182,000 compared to the \$ 166,000 received last year.

Expenses this year were \$ 153,000 compared to the amount of \$ 149,000 for last year.

She expected that we would show a surplus of approximately \$ 28,000 this year compared with the amount of \$ 17,000 for last year.

However, she cautioned that expenses were increasing quite considerably and that special care would have to be taken with regard to our finances.

Our surplus cash was being held in Fixed Deposit Accounts which totalled \$ 121,000.

Our bank account had a balance of \$ 60,000 and \$ 5,000 was being held in the Renovation account.

The costs for the new kneelers had been covered.

Kirsty advised that the full set of accounts were available for inspection in the Parish Centre office.

Marc Fudfrer then asked the Meeting to give a special Vote of Thanks to Kirsty for all of her hard work with the Finances of the parish.

General Business :

Stephen Lee then went through the outstanding items on the Agenda.

Parish Master Plan:

He advised that a decision had been made to put this on hold until further notice.

All of the Reports on the topics involved in the Master Plan had been handed over including all of the responses received from the parishioners.

Presbytery Renovations :

Stephen Lee reported that all the drawings for the Renovations had been prepared and Requests for Quotes had been sent out.

He advised the meeting that a Parishioner had offered to do all of the renovation work at a greatly reduced price.

We had received quotes totalling \$ 250,000 to \$ 300,000 and the Parishioner had offered to do the work for \$ 150,000.

However, the Council was not prepared to proceed with accepting the offer until a signed contract was in place.

He acknowledged that the Presbytery was in dire need of refurbishment and that interim work was being done on the bathrooms and the common areas so that Father could use them.

He will arrange for all of the drawings to be put on the parish website.

He commented that not much had been spent on the Presbytery in the past.

Busy Bee :

Jim Joseph then gave a report on the recent Busy Bee and thanked all those involved for their hard work which resulted in it being a fantastic event.

40 to 45 Parishioners came along on the day which resulted in all of the new kneelers being attached and all of the gardens being pruned and tidied up plus all of the outbuildings were cleaned of cobwebs.

Rangala Orphanage - Kenya.

Stephen Lee then raised the issue of the parish support for the Rangala orphanage.

He told the meeting that the Parish support had started 17 years ago and that to date we had contributed over \$ 200,000 in funds.

We contributed approximately \$ 7 to \$ 10,000 a year which was a large percentage of the budget for the Orphanage.

In the light of recent scams that our Parishioners had been exposed to regarding Father Hyginus's credit card it was only right that some Parishioners were now raising concerns about the donations to Rangala.

He had contacted the Head Office that was responsible for the Rangala project and had received detailed advice as to who was now responsible for the activities of the people connected with the facility.

He read out a letter that he had received from the Sister in charge of Rangala.

The letter detailed all of the work being done and gave plenty of information about the activities and all who were involved in the work of looking after the children.

As a result the Parish Council Members were now satisfied that the Rangala project was legitimate and agreed that we should continue to support them.

Sister Anita then asked the meeting if more could be done to educate the children of Our Lady of Grace parish so that they could fully understand who the cash collections were for and how the money was being used.

Deacon Paul told the meeting that he will follow up on this request and make sure that more information is provided and will visit the children in the school to let them know about the project.

He had some photos available which show aspects of the facility.

Father Hyginus commented that it was important that the project did not become a campaign but remained as part of the overall activities of the parish.

Our Lady of Grace School Report :

Gabrielle Doyle, the Principal of the school, had sent in an apology for the meeting and had asked Marc Tattersall to present her report in her absence.

Marc then gave the meeting a summary of her report which included her appreciation of the Community work for the Sacramental programme and the work of the Saint Vincent De Paul Chapter.

Gabrielle included comments about the schools contribution to the Christmas carols and all of the work being done by the parents.

Joan Burke was thanked for her work in changing the banners in the Multi Purpose area which matched the Liturgical calendar.

The school will be 70 years old next year and she is looking forward to the community celebrating the occasion.

The school now has over 700 students.

Parish Council Report:

Stephen Lee then went through all of the various Committees active in the parish.

He had received a letter of thanks from Vince Thompson of Saint Vincent De Paul.

Committees mentioned included - Reading Ministry, Sacramental Report, Eucharistic Adoration, Meditation Groups, the Choir, Outreach and the Christmas carols work group.

This years Christmas carols event will be held on the 10th December 2023.

Any Other Business:

Parish Pastoral Council :

Stephen introduced all the members of the Council who were at the meeting and thanked them for their hard work.

Next Year :

Stephen mentioned that next year he proposed to bring in a new regime and that he would not get tied down with so much documentation.

He planned to deliver on the Presbytery renovations and to make progress with the Master Plan.

He hoped to engage more with the Community and be more expansive.

Traffic Control:

Lita Endry told the meeting that a close friend of hers, who was an expert in Traffic Control, had commentated that the traffic flow around the Church should be reversed.

Deacon Paul then replied that the current traffic flow system had been ordered by the City of Stirling as it was imperative that priority was given to the safety of the school children .

Stephen Lee advised that this issue would be considered in the Master Plan.

Adventurous Children:

Paul Lusk told the meeting that a lady member of the parish had expressed her concerns to him about children that she had seen climbing the rock wall in front of the church just below the school yard.

Stephen Lee replied that whilst he was not sure what could be done to stop the kids climbing up the wall the issue would be discussed at the next PPC meeting.

Closing Prayer :

Father Hyginus noted that last year the AGM had been heavily promoted before the meeting date.

This year the promotion had been more low key and he was very pleased to see the good attendance at the AGM in spite of this.

He then gave his closing prayer.

The Meeting closed at 10.15am.

Minutes of the Meeting Confirmed as a true record :

Chairman :

Date :