



OUR LADY OF GRACE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 23 November 2024, 9.00 AM Somers Lounge

ENGAGEMENT TRUST TRANSPARENCY

	Meeting Opened 9.03 AM	Minutes	
1.0	Attendance:	22 People in attendance	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Father Hyginus • Marc Tattersall • Irene Walker • Rose Clarke • Tony Clarke • Juanita Halley-Wright (until 10 am) • Louis De Oliveira • Mark Marando • Bianca MacDonald • Deacon Paul Stacy • Sister Helen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sister Anita • Regina Discon • Vince Thompson • Mark Fuderer • Jen Stretcher • Andrew Endrey • Alita Endrey • Monica Taylor • Kristy Shaw • Louisa Merry • Geraldine Hickey 	
	Apologies: Paul Lusk Sue and Des Wright Jim Joseph Joan Burke Stephen Lee		
2.0	Welcome	Marc Tattersall	
	Opening Prayer - led by Marc		
3.0	Acceptance of Minutes from previous meeting – dated November 2023	Marc Tattersall	
	Minutes of previous AGM were posted to the OLG parish website. Since no comments were received, they are accepted as a true and accurate account of that AGM.		
3.0	Parish Priest Report	Fr Hyginus	
	<p>Father expressed heartfelt gratitude to all parishioners for their steadfast dedication and participation. He highlighted the significant impact that each of you has in fostering the spirit of our Christian community. He acknowledged the tireless efforts of many within various Parish Groups: the Parish Pastoral Council, Faith Formation, Finance and Acolyte teams, Social Committee, craft groups, widows group, prayer groups, and the maintenance committee. He also recognised the important role of Alcoholics Anonymous, although it operates independently, for being welcomed within the Parish centre.</p> <p>Father expressed concerns that many of our dedicated parishioners seem to be taking on many roles, leading to potential burnout. He encouraged us all to think of ways to engage more individuals in Parish activities.</p> <p>Father also highlighted some important upcoming dates –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 19-21, 2025: OLG will have a visit from the Bishop. • 2026: OLG will celebrate its 75th anniversary. He emphasised the importance of early planning to ensure it's an event that brings together all ages within our community. For a detailed account of Father's report, please visit the Parish website. 		
4.0	Parish Finance Committee Report	Kirsty Shaw	



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	<p>Marc Tattersall thanked and acknowledged the work of the Finance Committee: Mark Fuderer, Paul Armstrong, Fr Hyginus, Deacon Paul and Kristy Shaw.</p> <p>Kirsty then presented a brief overview of the Financial Statements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No written questions were received on the Financial Reports. • Overall, the Parish's financial position is solid, showing an operating surplus of some \$27,200; however, contributions from collections, donations, & other church programs have decreased slightly when compared to the previous year. • Insurance premiums have changed due to Catholic Archdiocese policy change for parishes. This has resulted in a big saving for OLG. • Expenses are showing a flattening trend. • A future potential concern is funding to meet additional maintenance costs. <p>If there are still questions arising from the presentation, parishioners are asked to email the parish office, and the Finance committee will respond to you in due course. The full copy of the financial report is available in the Parish Office for parishioners to review.</p>		
5.0	Parish Pastoral Council Elections	Marc Tattersall	
	<p>Existing PPC Members (present) were asked to stand. <i>Fr Hyginus, Deacon Paul, Mark Fuderer, Louisa Merry, Irene Walker and Marc Tattersall.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 retiring members – Stephen Lee (Chairman); and Anita Goldsworth. Email advice received. • All existing PPC members who are up for re-election have elected to remain for a further 2-year term. As there were no objections, they were taken as re-elected. • One new nomination was received – Mark Marando. Marc Tattersall moved that Mark Marando be accepted. Mark was unanimously accepted by the parishioners present. 		
6.0	General Business 6.1 – Presbytery Renovations	Marc Tattersall	
	<p>On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council, we want to say a heartfelt thank you to all parishioners who contributed to the presbytery renovation. It was a monumental team effort, very capably led by Des Wright and his team who project managed the whole effort.</p> <p>A huge team effort helped manage cost:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of busy bees were conducted • We had workers seating over manual labour and hospitality generously provided by those parishioners who were unable to perform heavy duties. • Some people donated money in lieu of attending where they had a clash of timetable • Everyone's contribution was very gratefully accepted. <p>Community building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OLG School generously donated the water filter for the presbytery kitchen. • Many items were provided at cost by suppliers. <p>Photos of renovation were shown on the screen.</p>		



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Incredibly this project came in on time and within budget – which is a huge testament to the work and time invested. Well done to Des and his team and the whole community for an amazing result.

6.2 – Parish Maintenance Planning

Parish Maintenance Committee (PMC) is a key PPC committee that has been established to lead the planning and implementation of ongoing maintenance requirements of the Church and parish facilities.

- PMC is led by Jim Joseph
- Meet regularly to address maintenance matters and resolve issues.
 - Recent issues included fixing the taps in the parish centre – some of which recently sprang leaks and led to frantic searches for the main isolation point. Highlighting the importance of this committee's focus and getting on top of issues before they become urgent
 - Another issue is the soakwell servicing north roof of the Church – the lid of which has collapsed. Planning for the repair is scheduled ahead of next winter.

The Archdiocese has provided a maintenance schedule report (free of charge) that is being considered by the committee with recommendations to flow from this. This will guide the PMC's actions into the future and allow the committee to enlist help from the community where possible and arrange repairs from licensed contractors where required.

6.3 – Parish Groups Summary

- Numerous morning teas held, led by Louisa Merry and Marilyn Lobo for both 7:30 and 9:30 Masses on Sundays.
- Also responsible for organising hospitality following the Sacramental thanksgiving masses and the upcoming Christmas Carols, 8 December and sausage sizzle.

Social groups – arranged by Madeleine Sullivan

- Walking and arts and crafts going from strength to strength. New members are always welcome.

A Big thank you to Louisa, Marilyn and Madeleine for all the work they undertake.

Safeguarding – Sue Wright, Rose Clarke, Joan Burke and Meagan Henley

Meeting the requirements of the Perth Archdiocese Matrix for workers and Volunteers has resulted in a busy year for the Admin Staff and the Group Leaders. We now have an up to date Data Base outlining who has met the requirements set out for each role the volunteer is involved in. An audit was completed, and we have a very high compliance rate. However, it is not yet perfect.

We continue to request that any volunteer in our Parish check with the Admin staff or a Safeguarding Officer as to the requirements that should be met for their role and complete these requirements as soon as possible so they can be called on to perform their relevant roles of volunteering in our Parish community. Every volunteer is required to complete Level 1 Induction and complete a Personal declaration which is kept on File in the office.

Some other roles may require Police Clearance and Working with Children Cards, and the group



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leaders and Admin staff will know if they are required for their role.

A very big thank you to all who have so willingly gone ahead and completed their Level 1 Induction and Personal Declarations. We are all responsible for each other's safety in our Parish, and by learning how we can improve on ensuring this safety, we are all helping to make our Parish a safe community.

We now have to maintain a register of every person who goes into the Sacristy. So far, the Acolytes have been completing this but, it must be understood that it includes all people who enter the Sacristy. E.g. Money collectors, parents responsible for dressing their altar server children.

We celebrated a very successful Safeguarding Sunday in September. Many books were handed out for children and parents to read together and discuss, and many young parents had time to talk to the Safeguarding Officers about issues like E-Safety and bullying. A lovely morning tea was held after the 9.30 Mass by the Hospitality Team, and parents were able to continue looking at the books, etc, that were available.

The team tried to get Advocare to visit our parish on a Saturday morning to talk about Elder Abuse and the Empowerment of the Elderly. Sadly, there was a poor response from our parish. The minimum number of participants, Ten, was not reached, so the session was cancelled. The safeguarding team will try again next year as they have some very good information for our older parishioners and also for their children who want the best for their parents.

The Parish website and the Credo are regularly updated to inform parishioners about education and courses available regarding Safeguarding.

Thank you for the interest and support you have shown in making Safeguarding a priority in our Parish.

The Safeguarding Team

6.4 OLG School Summary

This year, Michelle Lloyd has Acted as the short term Principal while Mrs. Gabrielle Doyle has taken a year's leave. She wrote. The Catholic School Advisory Council of Our Lady of Grace School has provided me a great deal of support during this period. This support has been invaluable, and I am truly appreciative of the opportunity to lead and serve our school community, even if only for a short time.

An important part of the CSAC is the OLG Parish Representative and this year, it has been my pleasure to work alongside Marc Tattersall in this position. The role is to be a conduit between school and Parish and an indication of the importance the school places on its relationship with the Parish. I would like to express my gratitude to Marc for the guidance and wisdom he has provided this year.

As Principal, I have the privilege of reporting to the CSAC on the ways in which we are actively implementing our Strategic Plan to deepen and strengthen our connection with the Parish community. Sisters Helen and Anita have continued to be a strong link with the Parish alongside our Assistant of Religious Education, Mr Andrew De Maio. I would like to acknowledge Mrs Pafumi and Mrs Fanchi for their role in supporting our school parish communication over the year.

I am deeply appreciative of the opportunities generously provided by Father Hyginus, Clare Broad, and Vince Thompson from the St. Vincent de Paul Chapter, which have allowed our school community to play a meaningful role in both the Sacramental Program and the activities of the St. Vincent de Paul



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Society. Their ongoing support has been invaluable in fostering our students' spiritual growth and connection to the broader Parish mission.

This year, in addition to these key aspects of Parish life, OLG has communicated weekly events through the Credo, ensuring Parishioners remain informed and engaged. We have also extended heartfelt invitations to events such as the Stations of the Cross, Grandparents Day, and the Pre-Primary Christmas Nativity Assembly, which have strengthened our bonds with the Parish community. A particular highlight was the Thanksgiving Mass, led by OLG students, marking the fourth occasion we have had the privilege of participating in a Parish weekend Mass. This opportunity reflects the ongoing collaboration and unity between our school and the Parish, and we are grateful for the chance to contribute to such meaningful expressions of faith.

This year the Archdiocesan Family based, Parish led and School supported Sacramental Program has seen over 350 children from the school and Parish program make their Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. It is a particularly important part of Parish and family life and my gratitude to Clare Broad for her wonderful passion and organisation of the program. We welcome students and families to our school for the PREP program, including invitations to our Sacrament Retreats each year. The PREP children who return over three Sacrament retreats are warmly welcomed as friends of the school. This year Christian Service continued as an integral part of the Sacramental program. It has been delightful to see so many more families at Mass over the weekends, with the children more than willing to play their part in making Mass a focal part of their preparations. Father Hyginus is an important part of the Sacramental Program and his introduction to parents at the first meeting and attendance at all the Workshops and Retreats is a wonderful way for our children to get to know Father more. Thank you, Clare and Father.

The House System at OLG is one way we make our large school smaller by growing and developing House Families instead of traditional factions. The Sisters of The Holy Family of Nazareth have given each House a Virtue (Charity, Faithfulness, Simplicity and Family) and throughout the year we work with Vince to find out what the St Vinnies Chapter needs and tailor our charity drives to meet that specific virtue. This year, in addition to the weekly contribution of classes to the food bank at the Parish, OLG Families have donated hundreds of Easter Eggs for the Easter Hampers, and are currently collecting for the Christmas Hampers. The Christmas Hampers are packed by our Year 6 Ministry Leaders and school Parent Volunteers.

Inspired by the 70th anniversary of our school and the charism of the Congregation of Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, the school created a project to make 70 blankets. These were to provide support for those in need including many Diocesan Agencies. As part of the blanket drive, families, parishioners, and students were invited to be a part of the journey and assist in making the blankets. The school community were invited to participate in any way they could from donating money for resources, providing materials or making the blankets. Thanks must go to Mrs Trish Sherlock from OLG, for visiting with the parishioners who eagerly participating in and contributed to this amazing project.

Thank you also to Joan Burke who assists us with changing the banners in our Multi-Purpose Area to match the Liturgical Calendar. As most of our Masses are celebrated in the MPA, due to numbers of children, we are also grateful to Joan's assistance in preparing our sacred space ready for Mass with the children.

Deacon Paul and Father Hyginus have celebrated 7 Whole School Masses this year in our MPA, in addition to Liturgies of The Word at our Retreats and special blessings at our Mother's Day, Father's Day and Grandparents' Day events. Each year, we invite Deacon Paul and Father to celebrate our star



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Christmas lunch with us, and we are grateful that they are an active part of our school community.

As a short-term Principal, I have been deeply honoured to be part of the Our Lady of Grace story and to have contributed, in my own small way, to strengthening the ongoing relationship between the school and the Parish. Our Lady of Grace School has grown significantly over the years, from 500 students to over 735 students projected in 2025. This growth reflects the hard work and commitment we have invested in creating a vibrant, dynamic Catholic school community that remains accessible to all families.

Looking ahead, I am excited about continuing to collaborate with the Parish through our well-established partnerships and exploring new and innovative ways to share God's mission together. It has been a privilege to contribute to this journey, and I remain inspired by the collective dedication to our shared vision of faith and service.

Thank you

Michelle Lloyd
Short Term Principal

St Vincent de Paul: North Beach Conference

- Vinnies North Beach Conference is part of a worldwide organisation. The fundamental purpose is to provide emergency care to those suffering hardship through person-to-person contact. They aim to support and empower those we meet.
- The Conference meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday morning of each month in the Somers lounge. There are about 15 members, associate and full.
- The Conference works within our area, assists Conferences in other areas, and supports Tom Fisher House, which provides free overnight accommodation and intervention services for the long-term homeless.
- Father Hyginus, the Parish community and Our Lady of Grace School are extremely generous in the support they extend to us. This support is vital for the St Vinnies work, and they are very grateful.

Three focal points in the year are:

- The Easter Egg gifts: Organised by the school and delivered by our members.
- The Winter Appeal: Asking for donations. This is Australia wide.
- St Nicolas Masses: Where people bring presents and donations of Christmas hamper goods. These are then delivered to people in need with the Christmas hampers prepared by the school.

Vince Thompson has been President of our Conference for seven years. He is now the Regional President and can use his skills more widely. He remains an active member of our group.

St Vinnies North Beach welcome new members. If you have time to spare, come and join us.

Jean Stretch,
North Beach Conference
November 2024

Other Business – the following questions were raised:

What are the Rang'ala collections all about? Question raised by Tony Clarke



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	<p>Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rang’ala collections have a long association with Deacon Paul. They support an orphanage in Kenya. • To date OLG has donated over \$200,000 • Due diligence carried out by the PPC to ensure it was still an on-going legitimate charity. • Another update is required by Rang’ala on how they spend the money. • Some \$16,000 - \$17,000 are sent each year. • Tony asked if we could include information about this charity, in the CREDO, around the event of the sacramental program. • Fr Hyginus was asked if the OLG school contributed to this, he replied No. <p>Who is going to look after the music ministry and roster? Question raised by Lita Endrey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPC will discuss with Fr Hyginus in the new year. <p>Juanita Halley-Wright – suggested that the CREDO, be posted to the School stream. This was found to be an acceptable request.</p> <p>Lita asked if the various social groups within the parish could be presented at the AGM as a way of generating more interest and engagement from the parish community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lita was informed that all the parish groups were listed on the parish website. <p>Geraldine Hickey asked if the various committees could present within the church, immediately after masses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fr Hyginus does not believe this is the appropriate forum for these announcements. 	
7.0	Next Meetings	Marc
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGM - November 2025, 9:00 am Parish Hall • The Parish Pastoral Council will commence meetings in March 2025. They will meet throughout 2025 to progress various agendas. • Please approach a member (PPC Photos on the wall inside the Church) if you need a matter considered by the council throughout the year. 	
8.0	8.0 Closing Prayer	Fr Hyginus
9.0	Meeting Closed	10.00 am
	<p>Marc Tattersall thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.</p> <p>He welcomed the new PPC member, Mark Marando and wished all parishioners and respective families a wonderful close to 2024 and a peaceful and happy Christmas.</p>	