

**St Carthage's Pastoral Council**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**St Carthage's Church 125 Royal Parade Parkville**

**Date:** Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Meeting commenced 11:10 a.m. and concluded 11:50 a.m.

**Present:** Heather Weedon (Chair), Fr Michael Elligate (retiring PP), Berise Heasley, Jack Rendle, Michael Pirota (Finance Committee), Rosemary Sheehan, Carmel Frost, Fr Joe Caddy (new PP), Leanne Pereira (new parish secretary), and some 40 parishioners.

**Apologies:** Jonathan Clayton.

**Chair's Report given by Heather Weedon**

Welcome to Fr Michael Elligate and Fr Joe Caddy, new PP.  
Commenced with Acknowledgement of Country.  
Acknowledged members of St Carthage's Parish Council.

Mins of previous meeting. Finance Committee report to PC. This has been shown to be against Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne guidelines. Current members will work with Joe Caddy on this. More social and family engagements. Interest in establishing more social justice issues. Activities of parish and Pastoral Council have been somewhat limited over past 12 months due to COVID restrictions, lockdown. The Council continued to meet via Zoom due to lockdown. As such no collection, so arranged for Job Keeper for Michael Elligate.

Thanks to Trish McNamara, Berise Heasley and Gerard Barnes who have all resigned in past twelve months. We thank them for their active service and contributions over the years.

Thank you to ME and Roger Rassool for the production of weekly Gospel reflections during lockdown. Much positive feedback received on this initiative.

St Vincent de Paul received less support than other years, however SVP is grateful for support that was received.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses at St Mary's College. Thank you to Ro Sheahan, Jonathan Clayton, Roger & Anne Rassool for making this happen.

Parish dinner and Trivia Night were annual events that could not happen this past year.

Launch of Berise Heasley's book.

Give special thanks and acknowledgement to Michael Elligate for his welcoming, homilies

Thanks to Morag Fraser, Heather Weedon, Berise Heasley, Dennis Green and Richard Olive for their work in publishing a tribute to Michael Elligate.

### **Finance Report given by Michael Pirotta**

Michael Pirotta joined in 2019 and became chair of Finance Committee, with thanks to his predecessor. Bernard 2020 lot of changes for Finance Committee. Previously stood alone, however decided that FC needed to report to PC. Procedures documented and handed over to audit firm. Audit was successful for parish. Auditor found accounts were fair. Two minor qualifications. Cannot sign off on comparatives. Cannot sign off on cash on plate being deposited to parish account. Recommended to be stored in accounting cloud. All most all of our donations are by EFT rather than cash. Weekly Gospel reflections were helpful in keeping people connected to parish life and continuing financial support.

Net cash of negative 50K. Be end of 2020 that has reverted to 8K positive. Loan for toilets paid. Church and presbytery in good physical shape and debt free.

Key savings for year were Archdiocese fees, not printing stationery. Pastoral expenses reduced by 53%; not unexpected when not having Masses for majority of the year. Significant savings in visiting artists program. Catholic Church Insurance premiums increased. Parish account picked up some expenses of house account. Very grateful for Job keeper to be able to support Michael Elligate during time of lockdown.

We have a budget; however due to new Parish Priest, Finance Committee will meet with Fr Joe Caddy and revisit the budget.

### **Parish Priest Report given by Fr Michael Elligate AM**

Sincere thanks to parishioners who “kept the show on the road.” Initiatives continued as we had a generous group of people who continued to contribute to parish life. Audit requested and this took place. Thanks to Michael Pirotta for all his work in preparing for this.

### **Motions Proposed by Richard Curtain**

1. Thanked Fr Michael Elligate for his dedication as PP, welcoming nature, homilies and visiting artists program.
  2. Ask Fr Joe Caddy to facilitate a meeting for parishioners to explore future directions. This is set for 30 May 2021.
  3. Criteria for new pastoral associate, what form of communication can we set up to inform all parishioners.
- Seconded by Rosemary Sheehan and Maryna Mews.

Fr Joe Caddy: Very happy to facilitate meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May and look at planning for future directions.

### **Comments on constitution by John Drennan**

Heather Weedon reported that the Parish Council Constitution had to be suspended and rewritten, as it did not meet Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne guidelines (in particular with regard to the Pastoral Council). John Drennan observed that he had been arguing for consistency with canon law since 2018, but this advice had been ignored. A revised constitution needs to be approved at the next AGM.