

St Carthage's 2025 AGM – St Carthage's Church, Parkville

Sunday 23 March 11.15am-12.20pm (unconfirmed minutes)

Present: 39 parishioners, including five members of Pastoral Council, two of Finance Council, and Fr Tony Kerin

Apologies received: Richard Olive, Chris Watson, Sean McManus, Tony Kavanagh

1. 2024 AGM minutes accepted.

2. Michael Pirotta, chair of Finance Council, presented the Finance Report (to be given on parish website). MP reported on various developments, including a mobile Touch & Go machine, establishing a register of assets. Most significant is the reduction in overall planned giving income, as numbers decrease in consequence of age. Numbers have stabilized to around 140 attending weekly. The parish is able to cover basic costs, and so feels able to meet its obligations to the archdiocese, with certain issues still under negotiation. Apart from the need for repairs to the presbytery roof, no significant unplanned expenses have arisen. MP spoke of the need to replace two members of the Finance Council who have had to step down (David Menzies and Michael Lewis) by individuals with appropriate expertise willing to serve in this role. The Audit conducted by A3X Partners is unqualified and confirms the accounts in all material aspects represent fairly the financial position of the parish. Key financials' are:

St Carthage's Catholic Church					
Attachement B - Profit & Loss Statement					
2024 Actual & Budget Comparison & 2025 Budget					
Items	2024 Full Year	2024 Budget Full Year	2024 Variance to Budget	2023 Full Year	2025 Budget Full Year
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget
Income					
Total Income	\$84,926	\$106,510	(\$21,584)	\$115,455	\$85,116
Total Expenses	\$95,041	\$102,640	\$7,599	\$105,121	\$92,538
Net Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$10,115)	\$3,870	(\$13,985)	\$10,334	(\$7,422)
After Donation for Capital Purposes	(\$11,890)	\$1,610	(\$13,500)	\$3,074	(\$9,322)

The full report will be posted on the parish website.

3. Constant Mews, chair of Pastoral Council, presented his report (to be given on parish website). His major focus was on gratitude to the many volunteers who contribute to the parish through a variety of networks or groups:

- Hospitality (tea & coffee after mass, convened by John Drennan with help from Brigid Walker, Robert & Angela Mandile, Mark & Liz Dohrmann, Brigid Walker
- music for 10am liturgy (last and first Sundays of month): Anne Rassool, with other musicians and singers (Roger Rassool, Peter Ryan and others
- music for liturgy (2nd, 3rd [and sometimes 4th Sundays: Morag Fraser, with Rick Norwood, Juliette Hughes, Sean McManus & others, now including a young organ scholar, Yesie Lin Viota, playing two Sundays a month (replacing Gabrielle Mercer, who was obliged to step down from playing because of distance being travelled).
- sacristan (setting up) group: Maree Rabach, Mary Galea and helpers; also Brigid Walker (rather than a florist) procuring and arranging flowers.
- sacramental formation (of children for first communion and confirmation): Mary Udovich, Craig Martini and others
- those who helped in a working bee within the parish, in December 2024
- those involved in counting money from the collection

- those involved in offering brief post-communion reflections in Advent, Lent, Mothers' and Fathers' Day
- members of the Pastoral Council (besides CM: Anthony Cavanagh, Penny McCann, Sean McManus, Michael Pirotta (ex off.), Sean McManus, Claire Renkin), Brigid Walker.

CM reported on the challenges presented by the departure of Fr Joe Caddy, our pastor mid 2021-mid 2024, to take up a position as bishop of Cairns, but also on the contribution of Fr Tony Kerin, who took up his post as Administrator of St Carthage's on 1 July 2024, while holding a full-time job as Vicar-General of the archdiocese. He has introduced not just use of a video screen in homilies, but the holding of two parish forums (27 Sept 2024 and 16 Feb 2025) to promote the practice of spiritual conversation, namely practice of speaking and listening within small groups.

CM spoke about the need for volunteers in various parish activities, foreshadowing a vacancy on the Pastoral Council in 2025, provoked by Anthony Cavanagh moving interstate. CM also presented the Parish Strategic Plan as a document that continually needs to be updated and improved to keep up with further developments. He also reminded parishioners of various ongoing groups within the parish:

- Sacramental instruction; contact the Parish Secretary <parkville@cam.org.au>
- Zoom meditation group (Wednesdays weekly, 5.00-5.30pm); contact: Liz Dohrmann <lizdohrmann@gmail.com>
- Feminist theology Zoom group (4th Monday of month 7.30pm); contact Mary Roberts <mjrob2@hotmail.com>
- Tuesday morning Reading Group (third Tuesday of month 10am-11.45am in Parish House); contact Mary Roberts.
- Zoom group relating Sunday Gospel to personal experience (Sundays 5pm-6pm. fortnightly); contact: <anniecantwellbartl@gmail.com>

The Pastoral Council also commended the and approved the establishment of a Future Directions Working Group, led by Roger Rassool, Peter Ryan, and Penny McCann and Mark Dohrmann, from Pastoral and Finance Councils respectively.

4. Maree Rabach reported on her involvement (with Mary Galea on Saturdays at 6pm) in preparing the church for various services, as also in identifying readers and those to offer prayers of the faithful and the need to get more volunteers to help in this preparation.

5. Maree Rabach spoke about her work as Convenor of the St Vincent de Paul Parkville Conference, in providing practical assistance (food/ financial) for those in difficult circumstances in the neighbourhood. 8 members do some 40 visits per month, and furnishing assistance worth \$70,000 p.a. Further volunteers are always welcome.

6. Roger Rassool spoke about the importance of establishing the FDWG, a group charged with soliciting ideas from the parish as a whole about future directions and developments within the parish, working with the Finance and Pastoral Councils in this process. He urged parishioners to register through the parish website and become involved in a survey of their thoughts and suggestions.

7. Fr Tony Kerin reported on broader changes taking place in the archdiocese, involving collaboration and merging of parishes to achieve economies of scale for mission, but also on possibilities of considering St Carthage's within the archdiocese as associated in the longer term with the position of the Vicar-General. This means that he would stay in this position until mid 2028 on the understanding that he lives in the house, with the opportunity to pray and serve the St Carthage's community on weekends, as far as he is able.

AGM

closed at 12.20pm