



# ST KEVIN'S TEMPLESTOWE

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## Parish Council meeting – 4 April 2024.

**Present:** Fr Charles, Fr Isaac, Claudia Raiola, Margaret Turner, John Costa, Tiziana D'Costa, Pauline Erickson, Carmel Shiel, Adrian Teo.

**Apologies:** Ana Saro.

Meeting began with opening prayer.

Matters arising from previous meeting:

- Input forwarded to Archdiocese of Melbourne.
- Correction: Margaret Turner was present at March meeting.

### **Parish Reports**

Response to Pastoral Worker report: there are many good things happening around the parish.

Social Justice Action update: Camino Talk coming up. St Vincent de Paul event will be advertised. Working on Second Collection program.

### **Other items**

Call for responses/feedback to draft pastoral plan

- discussion on reaching out to non-English speaking groups in the parish in their native language. There are chaplains from the archdiocese who speak a language other than English.
- Many people do not understand what is 'synodality', we need stories and practical examples to educate.

Synod of Bishops' response: approved subject to the changes discussed. John will amend and liaise for submission.

### **Items for parish newsletter**

Minutes and reports available on the website.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, 2 May – 2.30 pm.

## Lay Ecclesial Leader Report – April 2024.

## **Strategic planning - vision and mission.**

### **Easter 2024**

The Easter ceremonies were a great success. Congratulations to our liturgy group! We are fortunate to have a dedicated and hardworking liturgy group that worked very hard to bring together thoughtful and inspiring liturgies. We were ably aided by volunteers who helped with reading, collections, computer, special ministries etc.

On Good Friday, we had a reflection by a young parishioner, Simon, who is 18 years old and studied Texts and Traditions (the Gospel of John) in year 12 last year. His reflection was very well received. I received a lot of feedback from people saying it was good to hear the perspective of a young person on the gospel, and that this could be a good medium for reaching out to other young people.

At the service, there were also young people proclaiming the Word, reading the Gospel and helping with the procession of the cross. They all did very well. I received very positive feedback on having so many young people involved in the liturgy.

It was apparent this year that there are fewer members of the liturgy group who can assist with planning and coordinating the Easter Masses. This is one of the hardest and most time-consuming jobs. It means that we need to rely more on office resources than we used to in order to plan and deliver the liturgies.

### **Alpha Pilot**

*What is Alpha? **Alpha** is an opportunity for people to share a meal, ask questions about important matters of life, faith and meaning and, in the search for the answer, come to know Jesus and grow closer to God.*

We completed the Alpha Pilot in early March and received positive feedback from the participants. Several have expressed an interest to be involved in some capacity in the next round.

Fr Charles' support group will meet next week to prepare for the next iteration of the program which is planned to run over 10 weeks from May-July.

The aim of Alpha is to bring people closer to God; if the program is successful, this will hopefully translate in more people wanting to be active participants of our parish community.

### **Landings**

*What is Landings? **Landings** offers a safe space for those who have disconnected from their faith to share their experiences. The informal meetings over a coffee and cake are all about compassionate listening: to welcome and encourage people to reengage with their faith. The meetings are run by lay people.*

The program started on 21 February. We have currently two participants undertaking the program. We have not run Landings before so in essence this is also a pilot. The program materials are very good. The format is easy to follow and compact, each session runs for 1.5 hours. Currently, however, there are not sufficient office resources to support this program beyond the pilot which ends on 17 April. At this point, it seems unlikely the program will be offered again.

### **Parish Contribution – school families**

To date, we have received only one contribution from St Charles Borromeo school families.

I received the updated details of the St Kevin's School families just before the Easter holidays. I will reach out to families in the first week of Term 2, in mid-April.

### **Business manager position – St Kevin's and St Gregory's parishes**

In March, we advertised for the position of business manager. On advice from the Archdiocese HR, we have changed the role title from Operations Leader to Business Manager.

The ads are running in the archdiocese website and in CathNews; there is also an ad on our website. The due date for applications is Monday, 8 April.

Tiziana D'Costa

2 April 2024

### **Pastoral Worker Report April 2024.**

**Sacramental program** continues to grow in numbers. At the sacrament of **reconciliation** on the evening of Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March we had 7 children who were able to participate from the local state schools. We also assisted St Kevin's in identifying 2 families who needed to receive the sacrament of Baptism first – a very busy 2 weeks but both families were very enthusiastic and were able to attend a class, be welcomed and then receive Baptism on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Fr Isaac did a fabulous job baptising the 5 children and conducting a 'Reception into the Catholic Church' for one mum.

At the moment we are very busy liaising with Gen Bryant to lead the **Confirmation** – this will be the first time for this parish and is very exciting as Gen brings a youthful energy to the sacramental process. We have 11 school children and 8 catechist enrolled but have had an extra 3 enquiries for Confirmation in the last week.

**Safeguarding** is a big job at the moment as the Archdiocese release the new Safeguarding policies and Code Of Conduct. There are daily webinars this week to assist with the roll out – I attended today and it works in well with the new policy. I have read the updated Code of Conduct & Safeguarding and Wellbeing of Children & Young People Policy. The most notable changes are

- New antidiscrimination & Racism Policy
- New Record Keeping Policy
- New Reporting procedure.

I will present this updates and changes in the May meeting.

**Landings** has been weekly. It has been a pleasure to walk side by side with the group each week and listen to all the personal testimonies.

**Stations of the Cross** also proved to be a success – with on average 8 people joining me through Lent.

**Nursing home communion** continues – remains a great way to do outreach. Bupa on Serpells road has now requested a monthly mass – that will be 12 nursing homes that we visit.

**Godstart** cards continue (an initiative of Margaret Mangan – we send a birthday card to all the infants baptised in our parish up to their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday) – the hope is to invite all the families who are having their infants Baptised to join a Play group!!

## **Report of the Acting Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council – April 2024**

Thank you to the Council members who provided feedback on the draft Pastoral Plan. The due date for feedback was 21 March, but I'm happy to receive feedback until Friday 12 April, if you have not had the chance to do this yet. The sub-committee will reconvene to collate the feedback after 12 April and prepare a second draft to present to the Council for consideration.

In March, John Costa and Peter Sheehan ran a successful meeting on synodality with parishioners from our parish and St Gregory's. The Parish Council will submit a response to the Australian Bishops Conference on synodality; the meeting provided a great opportunity for Council members to hear directly from parishioners about this issue.

I invite any Council member who may be interested to approach me or Fr Charles regarding the position of Chairperson of the Council. I have been filling the role of acting Chair for over a year now, when this was only meant to be an interim position.

Do you have experience leading a group, or would you like to get experience? Please reach out to me or to Fr Charles for a chat. There will be plenty of support and encouragement.

Tiziana D'Costa

2 April 2024.