

Members Present:

Fr. Jude Pirotta (Parish Priest)

Fr. Sylvio Bezzina (Asst. Parish Priest)

Angel Hartanto, Gerry Balolong, Jenny Fenech, Paul Hughes, Dcn Royden

Apologies: Geralyn McCarthy

Invited Guest: Gilbert Menezes – Knights of the Southern Cross

Prayer: Jerry

Minutes: Royden

The meeting opened at 7.30pm. Gerry was having trouble with the internet coverage. Fr Jude requested Paul to Chair the meeting in the absence of Geralyn.

Meeting opened with a prayer by Gerry. Fr Jude also prayed for Jenny's dad who is not too well, Royden's brother who has been diagnosed with cancer, Red's uncle who passed away in the Philippines and Angel's cousin who requires our prayers.

Gilbert gave us a brief history of the Knights at St James. They currently have 10 to 15 members with 8 active members. Their aim is to put Gospel values into practice by celebrating culture and getting people together to celebrate diversity and unity in our parish. Their plans for 2021 have been dampened by COVID restrictions that continue.

They had two plans for 2021;

1. St James Feast day as a Multicultural Feast Day in July with fun, music, dancing, food etc and also being a fund raiser for the parish. However, this will have to be out on hold given that COVID is very much still here.
2. Sports Day bringing the youth of our parish together with either football or basketball to be held sometime in September or October after the 10.30 am mass.

Fr Jude thanked Gilbert for the presentation and said that the Sports day may be a bit more realistic. Knights will invite Frs Jude & Silvio when they next discuss the Sports Day.

Sacramental Co-ordinator:

Maribel Maniquiz has kindly accepted to be the Sacramental Coordinator and is slowly settling in. Fr Jude is helping out with teething issues, but she seems to be capable of managing. July 7th has been booked as confirmation for other schools with dates for St Francis

& St James yet to be finalised. Karen is the reconciliation Catechist with Beatrice and Florence Eucharist Catechist.

Lay Leaders Gathering;

Geralyn attended the meeting and will provide us with a report at our next meeting.

COVID Report:

Trybooking is being used as only 75 can attend mass. This is expected to increase. Additional masses have been out up to cater to demand however it was sad to note that at the last 7.30 am mass 25 people who had booked did not turn up. Follow up to be sent to people who do not turn up advising that we are concerned for them but also asking them to cancel booking if they can't make it. We have lovely volunteers who are regularly helping out at masses.

Census Forms: quite a few have been returned. We can remind parishioners whenever possible and when we meet them. Email requests to return census forms are also being returned.

Altar Servers: Meeting on Friday but no one turned up. Russell is going to email them and call each one of them to see where they are at.

St James feast Day: plans to focus on liturgy, raffle and lay people to speak about the parish.

Mini Stewardship Program: Fr Jude spoke to Stephen Littleton to hear him out about the process and how much they charge. Can't make any commitments at this stage.

Gerry tried and tried to connect and finally gave up.

Parish Priest Report

YP prayer event this Friday. Listen to how young people are coping. Send invite to other parishes.

Concreting a path from the rear of the church to the office and chapel. Offering box for envelopes and mass intentions.

Ray Centre cooling requires repairs or replacement.

Schools are coping ok

New Items:

Alpha

Royden made a presentation on Alpha to be started. This was well received. Fr Silvio commented that he had experienced Alpha in Malta and recommended that we try Alpha. Fr

Jude requested details about the leaders and when we expected to start etc. He was ok with the program but felt PPC could suggest leaders for the program.

Subsequently Royden sent an email providing details of leaders who have said yes to join Alpha and requested names from PPC that he could contact. Fr Silvio suggested Felix whom Royden contacted.

Following Tuesday (June 29) a special PPC was called however only Geralyn, Frs Jude & Silvio and Royden could attend. The matter was discussed at length, and it was suggested that we put a notice in the weekend bulletin (and Facebook) requesting interested leaders to come for an Information night.

New PPC Member

Fr Jude advised that the PPC is short of members as after Dylan and Charles left there had been no replacement. He had had previous discussions with Anthony Buttigieg about joining the PPC and Anthony had recently enquired about that conversation. Fr Jude knows Anthony well and suggested him as a potential candidate to join the PPC.

Jenny raised a reservation whether the selection would be seen as being subverting the usual process of calling for nominations. Fr Jude said this would be a one-off but said we would give it some thought and discuss it next time.

Meeting ended with a prayer by Fr Jude.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Next Meeting: scheduled for Monday 12th July, 7.30pm

Prayer: Fr. Silvio

Minutes: Angel