



**St James  
The Apostle**

**St James the Apostle Parish**

**Parish Council Meeting**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**Members:**

Fr Jude Pirotta mssp (Parish Priest)  
Geralyn McCarthy (Chairperson)  
Paul Hughes  
Deacon Royden DSouza

Fr Silvio Bezzina mssp (Assistant Priest)  
Jenny Fenech  
Gerry Balolong

Apologies: Angel Hartanto

Prayers were led by Fr Silvio

**Business arising from last meeting:**

1. Lay Leaders' Gathering – Update from Geralyn...

Interesting meeting during which Archbishop Comensoli spoke about the changing realities of the diocese, including the diminishing number of priests, financial difficulties, parishes without priests, dwindling numbers due to a range of reasons. Needing to reinvigorate the parishes. The idea of “mission” as different from “parish” and a moving from a parochial mentality. The establishment of mission centres, as distinct from the closure or amalgamation of parishes. A five-year plan.

Geralyn reported that it was lovely to meet the other lay people. Many feel that this is their church, and they want to be there and take part.

It seems that (unfortunately) some people were shut down, and ideas were not taken up by the archbishop and the team.

It is time to affect change, but that should not be brought about the pressing lack of priests and financial resources. Rather it is a question of creating the space for lay people to take their rightful place within church leadership.

Follow-up meetings are being planned on a regional basis in the coming months.

It is still not clear how our parish, led by a religious congregation, will be involved and respond.

2. COVID Update

As from last weekend, restrictions were eased to allow for one person per 2m<sup>2</sup>. We did away with the extra masses on Saturday and Sunday evening, but retained the Sunday 7:30am mass. Roughly 1,100 people attended over the whole weekend.

3. Census Forms are coming in and the database is being updated. Statistics are not available at the moment.

4. Mini Stewardship Program: We need to work on this, but COVID times are not the best of times to do this. Financial resources are required not just for building needs, but also for the running of ministries in the parish.

- a. Stephen Littleton may be invited in to speak of this at a later date.
5. Altar Servers and Readers. Recruiting is underway at the schools (Altar servers: Years 4, 5 and 6, Readers: Years 5 and 6).
6. Alpha Program. An initial meeting was held at the church last week. 15 people were present, and most are very suited to this new ministry programme. The initial programme will be a pilot programme, with the intent of forming leaders for future programmes. The idea is to start small, and learn from experience and mistakes. The parish will be supporting the initiative.
7. Parish Pastoral Council members. The process for the recruiting of new members will be initiated. Red will be approached, as he knows the process (which is to be found in previous bulletins), and can help with the recruiting.

**Parish Priest Report:** Fr Jude

1. Parish feast will be limited this year. A cake will be cut, and coffee offered at the Paulist centre after 10:30am mass. Fr Silvio to contact Phuong-Tran re the cake.
2. *Take the Way of the Gospel* diocesan initiative. A meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021. Geralyn will be participating. Angel will be invited.
3. Regarding the presbytery building. Works are not yet completed, and it was decided to take the builders to court. Dao Tran is preparing a legal letter.
4. Last week we celebrated the confirmation of children from other schools. They were well-prepared and the ceremony was meaningful. Cheryl Cabral is stepping down, and appreciation was shown.
5. The feast of St. James will be celebrated on the weekend of the 25<sup>th</sup> July.
6. Talk by Bishop Vincent Long at Newman College was very much in touch with present realities and forward looking.
7. Participating in the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021 regional meeting *Leading Missionary Renewal*

**Finance Report:** Angel in apology.

**New Business Items to be brought forward to next time:**

1. Parish Ministries review and update (including website). The drawing up of a new directory will be discussed.
2. Adult Formation

**Next Meeting:** Monday August 9 2021

**Prayer:** Paul

**Minutes:** Angel

Thankyou

Fr Silvio