

**Meeting of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council  
Saturday 6 June 2015  
Venue: Lecture Room – Catholic Centre**

**Present:** Archbishop John Dew, Br Doug Dawick (Chair), Mike Noonan, Paul Alford, Jonathon (Jonny) Boon, Patsy Buttle, Mike Driscoll, Chris Duthie-Jung, Fr James Lyons, Mika Teofilo, Tania Halliday (Minutes)

**Apologies:** Bernadette Murfitt, Nikki Phillips, Maureen Phillips, Kathryn Miles, Melanie Faaeteete, Aliesha Su'a, Turei Thompson

**Previous Minutes:** Accepted. Moved Br Doug Dawick, Seconded Fr James Lyons

**Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

- Human Trafficking: Chris Duthie Jung is making available to schools a resource to cover this issue.
- Turei yet to forward the power-point on Josephine Bakhita to APC Members
- Mike Noonan has an updated proposal for APC member's liaison with parishes which reflects the new membership of APC and the newly amalgamated parishes.
- A new Stewardship Team has been established and has had its first meeting.

Cardinal John's Column in the February issue of Welcom spoke of Confronting Human Trafficking, and the March issue of Welcom carried a feature article offering excerpts from Cardinal John's report on the December 2014 meeting of the Sancta Marta Group in London.

- An event which was to be co-hosted with the Anglican Diocese needed to be cancelled when it was discovered that the person co-ordinating efforts had a track record of "overclaiming" others' involvement and spending without covering costs.
- In connection with the Year of Consecrated Life, – Mike had forwarded a paper by Deirdre Mullan rsm on the vow of Poverty entitled "Until All have Enough"
- Cardinal John reported that a small group of religious meet on a Friday and suggested that Mike forward the paper to Catherine Jones SMSM.

**Cardinal John's Briefing** (*given on the Friday night*), Cardinal John drew the attention of Members to the item Marriage and Family Ministries.

Marriage and Family Ministries could be perceived as sanctioned by the Church. However it is a private trust. It approached the Bishops Conference for support in order to extend its reach nationwide. It is primarily the work of one woman – Patricia (Tiza)

Sison. In response, the Bishops conference asked for her to work within her own parish. The trusts activities are not endorsed by the Church, nor encouraged.

## **Agenda Items:**

### **Reflection on Year of Mercy**

The Bull, *Misericordiae Vultus* was seen by the APC as a wonderful document.

The Year of Mercy will run from the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 8 December 2015 until 20 November 2016, when it will conclude on the Feast of Christ the King.

Cardinal John invited Council Members to offer ideas for ways to celebrate the year. It was noted that the start day is both the feast day of Archdiocese and 50 years since Vatican II closed.

### **Ideas offered by Council members**

- To open the year with a major event
- another suggestion was to have Regional Masses on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent) - masses similar to the promulgation masses when Parishes amalgamated, i.e. only one mass per new parish/ pastoral area

Suggestions from the APC on the way in which *Misericordiae Vultus* could be used included:

- for in-depth Adult Formation. The opportunity to educate and emphasize the importance of mercy as a way of opening hearts
- It was noted that Divine Mercy groups may believe that this is more of the same – it will be important to face this head on and find ways of expanding on the devotion to include what is at the heart of this Bull. The suggestion was made to write a summary of the document and to include with it a resource with reflection and offering questions for parish use)
- Language – Plain English was seen as necessary for the public to fully understand the document
- Pilgrimages like those done in “The Year of Faith” were well received, is there some way these could be done again with “The Year of Mercy” as the focus?
- To promote the focus for 24 hours of Prayer (the Friday and Saturday preceding the fourth week of Lent)
- Advent was seen as another time when the document could be used for reflection
- To make “The Doors” a focal point in Churches – Doors of Mercy. There could be a display with material regarding Year of Mercy
- “Jesus is the face of the Mercy of God.” The Year of Mercy is seen as a wonderful opportunity for contemplation, and using parables and bible stories as showing the true Mercy of God
- Theme for O’Shea Shield is “The Year of Mercy”. There is an opportunity to unpack it at college level and break down “How do I live a Mercy Life” or Gods Mercy
- Flyers and leaflets to get parishes involved
- Highlighting groups already involved such as St Vincent de Paul

- Mika Teofilo spoke of the language barrier for Samoan's to fully understand the document and the importance of translating it for people to understand
- The image of the Prodigal Son was thought to be both thought provoking as well as a wonderful image for reflection. Fr James plans to have Banners of Rembrandt's picture focusing on the image of Father and Son as an image for the year. The other New Testament references are the stories of "The lost coin", "The lost sheep" - God doesn't want anything lost
- The possibility of looking for a modern image of the Prodigal Son was suggested in order to facilitate the engagement of young people. Chris Duthie Jung suggested a schools competition for Artwork to accompany the parable
- Cardinal John mentioned a book by Henri Nouwen being a wonderful reflection resource on the story of the Prodigal Son
- Prayer Card to encourage "Family Prayer" It was decided to explore this idea and ensure that after the year the prayer can continue to be used
- A subcommittee of Chris and Jonny, with input from Maureen from David Sullivan to form a prayer card/resource for schools showing Gods mercy
- Council of Priests might consider offering some direction on Homilies on Mercy
- Consideration might be given to Missions to the People (cf: Misericordiae Vultus 18)
- Use WELCOM – as a resource, asking for their reflection on the "Prodigal Son"
- As well as the Prodigal Son the Bull includes the passage from Isaiah 58 which speaks of the corporal works of mercy and those who engage with them as being people whose "soul will become like a watered garden"
- Opening "Year of Mercy" 8/12/15 coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closing of Vatican II, so a big event to open the year could draw from this and the words of St John XXIII when he opened the Council; The Church "wishes to use the medicine of mercy rather than taking up the arms of severity"
- Each APC members at this meeting was asked to send a sentence or two on what the document means to them. This will be included in Cardinal John's column in the next edition of WELCOM. Friday 13 June have sentences to Mike Noonan.

## **Draft Liturgical Policy**

### **Life is Changed not Ended – Christian Funerals:**

This was seen by the APC as a wonderful document. The policy is a clear, concise instruction on the Catholic funeral process. It was suggested a pamphlet/brochure be prepared to condense the information. There was mention about issues being called cultural eg the family service the evening before a Requiem Mass. This is not part of the catholic funeral process but has become common practice. This then can sometimes become both a financial and time burden on grieving families with the stress of having to "repay" people in some way at a later time.

The Council of Priests has sent documentation to the Funeral Directors to explain position on Catholic funerals.

Some form of direction for Priests to include those who do not practice the catholic faith, as some of the rituals used in the service can be confusing for some. Most priests would be aware of this, and include instruction, which helps to make everyone feel included.

It was suggested to add somewhere to contact the priest/parish sooner rather than later. Often the first call is to the Funeral Director who makes arrangements with the family and then, almost as an afterthought, the priest/church gets rung.

It is also encouraged that people talk to their families about what they want at their funerals. Often families become divided about what is wanted, some practice their faith some don't and the wishes of the deceased are sometimes forgotten. At a time of stress and grief it is complex to work with families who are divided about what their relative would have wanted.

### **Re-Imagining Process**

Six new parishes have come into being so far. There are several more planned for the beginning of next year. Concern for the South Island was voiced as they are at different stages in the process. Kathy Moriarty left documentation to help with the process. The South Island parishes are talking, but need more support. Patsy Buttle reported that the Marlborough area is talking. They have made sub groups up as travel was an issue. They do have a concern about clergy and the uncertainty unsettles people.

### **South Island Collaborative Ministry Formation**

The 9<sup>th</sup> of July has been confirmed as a Formation Day for all South Island Parishes. Pastoral Services representatives and +John need to keep travelling to South Island to offer support, encouragement and help.

### **Sub-Committee on Cardinal John's Priorities**

Mike spoke to the report: The Group has met twice to look at resources which can be offered to parishes to assist them in addressing +John's priorities. There was a sense in which the priorities have been underpinned by the Year of Mercy and will also be informed by the upcoming encyclical on the environment (to be published on 16<sup>th</sup> of June).

Since Cardinal John's attendance at the Sancta Marta Conference in London Human Trafficking has also taken its place among the priorities under the heading 'The Poor'.

It was agreed that Tuesday 15 September, The Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, will be the Wellington Archdiocese day to remember the victims of Human Trafficking

Because of the Year of Mercy it was agreed that the Mandate of this group continue with expanded membership which will include +John, Paul, Mike, Fr James Lyons, Br Doug, Glenice Hoskins, with Chris for school liaison as needed. The Mandate continues with the expanded group to plan how to meet the priorities during the Year of Mercy.

### **Stewardship Report** –Mike spoke to this.

Stewardship Days have until now been held on a Diocesan wide basis, but this year two very successful days have been held with amalgamated parishes on a parish or pastoral area basis.

In March, the Stewardship day held with Porirua Pastoral Area, worked really well. One participant's feedback was "we need more opportunity to talk like this."

The World Café process is seen as a helpful way of engaging people in deepening conversations.

The first part of the day is open to all parishioners, the second part is devoted to the Parish/Pastoral Area leadership team.

Both Stewardship days (March and May) were well received. Very positive feedback was given to Doug about the day at Te Wairua Tapu .

In September it is planned to hold similar events in

- Wellington East
- Nelson/Stoke

Cardinal John commented on the need to plan for how we want Stewardship to look in 5/10 years time as well as putting in place a plan for individual Stewardship events.

### **Building the Agenda of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council**

Currently the APC Standing Committee (+John Doug and Mike), meet 3-4 weeks out to set out the agenda. Members are encouraged to feel free to put forward pastoral issues which they feel need attention from +John.

**APC Parish Allocations** – Mike spoke to this. New Members have been allocated to parish liaison roles. Some adjustments have been made to existing members' responsibilities as parishes have amalgamated. The revised list will be e-mailed with the minutes.

Mike Noonan explained what the role involved for new members. The liaison is two way:

*from parish to the APC:*

- for the APC to learn how each parish is faring in order to enable the APC and the Archbishop to obtain an up-to-date picture of how all the parishes are doing
- act as an early warning system if a particular parish experiences problems
- enable each parish to voice issues, concerns, requests for the APC to discuss

*from the APC to the parishes:*

to assist parishes by:

- passing on information about particular concerns and initiatives raised at APC at Archdiocesan level
- reminding parishes of available Archdiocesan resources and (where appropriate) of selected Synod decisions
- sharing with parishes helpful information and solutions from other parishes

Contact can be made through phone/email. It is a good practice to go annually to Parish Council meetings in order to know and be known to the Parish Council. Parish Councils may access Information from the APC via the Archdiocesan website.

Mike will inform the members concerned when letters have been sent to the parish they have been allocated to.

With Glenice Hoskins retiring from the Council, there is no-one from the Kapiti/Horowhenua Area. It would be helpful to have someone from up that way. + John will look again at membership with Mike.

## **General Business**

### **APC Friday evening: reflection and prayer.**

A brief evaluation was made of the first APC Friday evening reflection and prayer with a Parish Council. The first of these events was held at Te Awakairangi. Despite limited numbers turning up from both the parish and the APC, it was agreed that it was worth continuing. Though small, the group didn't feel that way. The level of intimacy was good and people felt safe to share.

It was suggested that next time we start at 6.30 with refreshments. It was seen as important that the APC liaison person for the parish/pastoral area make every effort to attend.

For the September meeting: Mike will arrange for the Friday evening to be held with the Wellington South Area.

Mike Driscoll raised the question of how The Dominion Post came to report about photos in church. +John spoke to this. The journalist had picked up on a report that the Irish Bishops, out of sensitivity to the possible misuse of photos on social media, had banned photos in churches. While the New Zealand Bishops have not yet taken such a step, it is helpful to encourage people to respect the sacredness of the liturgy so it is advisable to engage just one photographer for an event.

## **Pastoral Area/ Parish Reports.**

Reports were received from North Wellington, Kahurangi Pastoral Area, Our Lady of Hope and Wellington South Pastoral Area. These will be e mailed out with the minutes.

Date of Next meeting: **4th & 5th September**

## **Apologies for next meeting**

Fr James

## **Action points:**

- Turei yet to forward the power-point on Josephine Bakhita to APC Members
- Mike to forward the paper "Until All have Enough" to Catherine Jones
- Chris, Jonny, Maureen and input from David Sullivan to form a prayer card/resource for schools for the Year of Mercy
- Cardinal John to raise with the Council of Priests the possibility of offering some direction on Homilies on Mercy.
- Each APC member at this meeting was asked to send a sentence or two on what the document Misericordiae Vultus means to them. This will be included in

Cardinal John's column in the next edition of WELCOM. The Deadline is Friday 13 June.

- +John, Paul, Mike, Fr James Lyons, Br Doug, Glenice Hoskins will meet with an expanded mandate to prepare for the Year of Mercy and to provide resources for parishes as they meet +John's priorities. Mike to arrange. Chris will be available for school liaison as needed.
- The revised list of Parish allocations to be sent out with the minutes – Tania
- For Parish Allocations, Mike will inform the members concerned when letters have been sent to the parish they have been allocated to.
- +John and Mike to review APC membership to take account of Kapiti Horowhenua area.
- Mike to arrange with Wellington South Pastoral Area for the Friday evening of the September Meeting.