

**St Leonard's Parish Pastoral Council  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2009 – 7.45 P.M  
AT NAREMBURN PARISH HALL ANNEX**

**Present:** Father Jack Robson  
Paul Mason  
David Turner  
Ros Payne  
Mike O'Leary  
Geoff Gemmell  
Paul Brennan  
Lou Ciaglia

**Apologies:** None

**Minutes of Previous Meetings:** David Turner proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted; seconded by Paul Mason; carried unanimously.

**Audio Visual Equipment for Naremburn:**

Geoff Gemmell, head of the Finance Committee, said that, at present, he is not in favour of the purchase. Geoff then spoke to some issues of process, as follows: The understanding has been that the Parish Finance Committee is there to advise the Parish Priest or Administrator. Geoff noted that the notice in the bulletin about the AV equipment was inconsistent with this process. Geoff also raised general concerns about the state of parish finances at the moment. Without the current abnormal revenues from the Anglican church, the parish would be operating in deficit. Geoff also made mention of the age of the church, the need to spend funds on maintenance, and the possibility, for example, of having to replace the roof at a cost of \$250k - \$500k, thought this estimate is not based on any assessment of needs or any quotes.

Geoff sought clarification as to the process, that the PPC seemed to have made the decision to purchase the AV equipment without referral to the PFC. David confirmed that this indeed was the case. David then

tabled a letter previously sent to Geoff, and spoke to this letter and the parish's need for the AV system. These included:

- Improved participation in liturgy
  - Words to songs, new and old
  - Words to prayers
  - Facilitate use of options:
    - Creed
    - Penitential rite
    - Sprinkling
  - Kid friendly

Fr Jack commented that Fr Frank has indicated the great improvement in participation at St Thomas since Willoughby implemented their new AV system.

Geoff commented that he had spoken to 14 families, all who contribute to planned giving. Of the 14, 11 were against, 1 didn't know and 2 were in favour. David commented that of all the people he had consulted, all had been in favour. This included all the people he had spoken to in the Ciaglia family group. Admittedly they are all younger people.

Discussion then ensued on the matters and issues raised. Fr Jack suggested that an article be placed in the newsletter explaining the AV equipment project, in order to get buy in and ownership from parishioners. This should look to garner further specifically targeted donations for the project.

Paul B suggested that we aim to attract as much support for targeted funding, similar to the organ fund-raising exercise.

Discussion was also raised about the great potential of the coming centenary of St Leonard's church to:

- Build community
- Raise awareness of need for maintenance funding
- Document the parish history

It's not too early to establish a sub-committee to look at the centenary.

The meeting considered fund-raising opportunities:

- Food and fun fair
- A "pray for ..." roll-over on the slide presentations on the AV equipment
- A dedication plaque on the side of the AV cabinet

**Holy Week/Easter:** David Turner will prepare a flyer for Holy Week / Easter.

**Merger:** Paul reported on status of 3-parish celebration in March. Everyone looked forward to a great event.

**Parish History:** The meeting discussed the possibility of involving people in the writing of the history of the church and the possibility of forming a steering committee for the centenary.

No further business. Father Jack led us in prayer and the meeting was closed.