

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH CLOVELLY

Report on parish meeting held 29 February 2016 in the parish meeting room to start planning for the parish centenary.

Present: Fr Pawel Kopczynski, Richard Haddock, Katy Haddock, Graham Russell, Joanne Russell, Chris Lim, Arlie McHatton, Linda Heavener, Kim Whyte (St Anthony's School Principal), Sue Stivala (St Anthony's School Deputy Principal), Marita Wells, Helen Taylor, Jim Taylor, David Chuah, Anthony Crook, Peter Court, Col Blake, Teresa Englen, Liz Eberl, Vicki Shirlaw, Lisa Gillespie, Sally Davies

Apologies: Louise Jones (Parish Secretary), Cassandra Jordan

Richard Haddock welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to begin planning for the parish/school centenary, which occurs over the period 2017-2018. Significant dates are:

- Foundation stone of original church/school building laid on 12 August 1917
- First Mass celebrated on 23 December 1917
- Church/school officially blessed and opened on 20 January 1918
- School started on 28 January 1918

Richard said that he envisaged that there would be several activities planned for the centenary, and that corresponding sub-committees would be formed, reporting back to the main committee. It was important that the school be involved, and he welcomed the presence at the meeting of the Principal and Deputy Principal. It was agreed that those present would constitute the main planning committee.

Previous celebrations:

- The parish had celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1992 with a special Mass (on 1 November) followed by sausage sizzle, and a display of photographs and memorabilia in the meeting room – most of this material is still organised chronologically in archive boxes in various cupboards in the parish office.
- The school had had an event for its 90th anniversary, including a Powerpoint show of old photographs (entitled A Trip Down Memory Lane) and other memorabilia –these should still be in the school archives.

Other parishes: The parishes of Arncliffe and Bondi also have their centenaries in 2017. A record six parishes have centenaries in 2016, and their planned activities have already been written up on the Archdiocesan website.

Timing of celebrations: Fr Pawel said that he wanted a 'Year of Jubilee', with spiritual activities as well as social ones.

The meeting was thrown open for general discussion and the ideas/suggestions are listed below.

Spiritual activities:

- Parish mission, especially one that would involve younger families
- Involvement of Franciscans (as parish was originally held by Franciscans)
- Parish retreat/reflection day
- Major Centenary Mass
- Series of weekend Masses, inviting priests who served here or who came from here to concelebrate
- The year to begin and end on St Anthony's Feast ie 13 June 2017 to 13 June 2018 (opening event need not be large)
- Membership drive to increase Mass attendance – perhaps a doorknock

- Procession with statue of St Anthony
- Compose a special prayer for centenary
- Have a theme based on parish saint

History/publication

- Fr Pawel has lined up retired professor Garry Trompf from North Ryde parish to help with writing a history of the parish.
- Joanne has written a parish history using various archival material – a truncated version of this is on the parish website.
- Hard copy books can be very expensive, with a risk of being left with many unsold copies; a better idea might be to publish online and take orders for hard copies, and then get the required number printed in Asia (Col Blake has experience with books).
- History could be in form of DVD as well as/instead of printed book.
- Publication needs to be made personal with interesting anecdotes from past parishioners, and lots of photos.
- Video interviews with past parishioners/pupils such as Jim Taylor (as done by St Charles School)
- Photographic exhibition in church (perhaps in choir loft?)

Communication with past parishioners/pupils (to get memorabilia/reminiscences and to invite to events)

- Advertise in newspapers that have special facilities for this eg SMH, Daily Telegraph, Southern Courier
- Network through St Anthony's School Parents and Friends Association
- Ask local Catholic high schools and their past pupil associations to put notices in their newsletters
- Network among our family and friends (eg Brenton McHatton has started already)
- Make list of nuns who worked here or came from here, and try to contact them (Sr Margaret Walsh PBVM still lives in the parish)
- Have a special email address for the centenary?
- Have a Facebook page for the centenary?
- Insert an anecdote or other notice in the parish bulletin once a month from now on
- Create a data base of interested people

Social events

- Function inviting past pupils/parishioners
- Gala dinner
- The school is not planning a fete in the relevant year but could have smaller functions/fairs
- Sausage sizzles after special Masses
- Seniors' High Tea
- We must personally invite people to attend the various events

Other ideas

- Commemorative memorabilia eg pen, mug, bookmark, tea towel
- Fundraising may be necessary to fund some activities (experience shows it is hard to get sponsors)

Next meeting: Thursday 31 March 2016 at 7.30pm in the parish meeting room. Once again all parishioners will be invited. Committee agreed that weeknights were best for meetings. (Note that school holidays are 9-25 April)