

Music Committee Minutes:

1. Meeting started at 7pm with prayers led by Fr. Paul.
2. Attendance - Committee: Fr. Paul, Fr. Stephen, Peter (chair, secretary), Andrew, Jennifer. Musicians: Ray, Christian, Mark, Bev.
3. Date for next committee meeting: 25 February 2019. Tentative time: 7pm subject to availability.
4. Previous business for immediate attention:
 - 4.1. Purchase sufficient copies of Mass For Moderns (MFM): Peter and Andrew already have copies. We have 12 other musician groups. 2 copies minimum will be required (1 for accompaniment, one for song leader.)
Action: 25 copies will be purchased to start with. Fr. Paul will organise the office staff to order from As One Voice/Willow.
Time frame: Order by 8/2/19.
 - 4.2. Organise for musicians to attend small meetings: Preliminary meeting will be held as soon as possible. Aim of first meeting is to hand out copies of MFM, with a small discussion of seasonality and why we are introducing the mass. A brief run through of the mass and practice for those who need it.
Action: Peter to email musicians inviting to at the meeting and asking for suggested dates and times. At least one member should be present from each group.
Time frame: Email to be sent by 6/2/19. **Completed:** 6/2/19
 - 4.3. As many musicians as possible to play this setting during Lent. This starts matching Mass settings to liturgical seasons
Information only: Peter to add to email in 4.2 above.
 - 4.4. Website area for musicians - Needs interaction with webmaster.
Action: Fr. Paul to talk with Richard Howing.
Time frame: By meeting after next.
5. New business:
 - 5.1. Discussion for Lent:

Musicians should consider the following hymns when choosing their music for masses during Lent:

 - Ashes (GA 209) - most appropriate on Ash Wednesday, but could be used at other masses.
 - Tree Of Life (GA 307) - has separate verses for each Sunday, plus general verses.
 - God Of Mercy And Compassion (GA 302)
 - Purify My Heart (The Source, No. 436) Ensure license details are entered for overhead.

Musicians may choose to sing a common Lenten Psalm, or the Psalm of the Sunday. The common Psalm chosen is As The Deer Longs (GA 38.) Please announce this and refer people to the hymn book for the response. (If possible we will have an overhead on the computer as well - enter details on sheet if used.)

(Not mentioned at meeting, but remember we do not say or sing the Gloria in Lent. Also the Gospel acclamation is not "Alleluia" but one of four choices as in your missal. You can sing the same one throughout Lent or the one for the Mass of the day.)
 - 5.2. Planning for Easter: Deferred to next meeting.
 - 5.2.1. Musicians to be notified of the procedure for the veneration of the cross on Good Friday so that sufficient hymns can be chosen.
Action: Fr. Paul to discuss at next meeting.

5.2.2. Musicians to be asked to volunteer for Easter services: Holy Thursday, Stations Of The Cross, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday masses.

Action: Peter to email musicians group requesting expressions of interest and attempt to fill roster.

Time frame: Email by 8/2/19. Attempt roster by next meeting.

5.3. Problems with Organ

5.4. Organists invited to the meeting were asked for opinions regarding repair/replacement/discarding the organ. A list of points from email discussion was supplied and discussed. (see attachment.) A summary of investigation by Malcolm Bocking and Peter Bowron into the history of service and their examination inside the organ was presented.

Consensus was reached that we need a service call to decide if repair is warranted or if the organ is beyond economic repair. If the organ can be made functional for a reasonable length of time, we have breathing space to organise funds for a new organ.

Action: Fr. Paul to speak with Malcolm Bocking and organise a service call.

Time frame: End of week (8-10/2).

Christian reported an offer for an old piano and organ from a (?) previous parishioner of a (?) previous parish. He will investigate at his convenience to see if it is viable, but an upright piano would create difficulties because of its height, and a home organ may be unsuitable.

5.5. List of Options for music (including new organ) - see attached discussion points. The group consensus was that an organ was essential, given we have 5- 6 competent organists and few/no new volunteers. Marks suggestion for trying to get competent instrumentalists from various school bands was thought to be good if we can manage it, but they will have their own instruments. We need a “ministry” of rostered projectionists for the masses that need them. Andrew’s suggestion of a “bio box” was considered aspirational at this stage - it will require both funds and trained operators. Andrew to investigate further [See also next item.]

5.6. Space and location for musicians: The church is in the process of organising for the pews to be refurbished and slightly reconfigured. A suggestion had been made by the Parish Council that during the reconfiguration we may move to a position to the rear of the pews. The musicians present rejected the concept on both practical and liturgical grounds. Fr. Paul will convey this to the Parish Council. However, Bev brought up the issue of difficulties involved with moving the piano, and we will consider a non destructive way to keep it in an agreed, set position. [Note post meeting - in discussions with Malcolm Bocking the following day, he suggested that we draw up a plan for what would help make the musicians area more functional, including widening the “communion bypass aisle in front of the organ. Peter will attempt to do a preliminary plan in consultation with Bev, who is on the receiving end of most piano moves. The plan will be circulated for refinement and comment. Leaving space for some technology control in the future (bio box, or something similar, seems prudent.)]

6. Previous business for discussion: Most deferred to a later meeting: except as noted at the end.

6.1. Musicians who have applied to join the roster; need for additional musicians?

6.2. vision for sacred music in the parish: a plan for the music ministry in the parish

6.3. Music resources and books

6.4. Sound equipment

6.5. Use of the monitors

Peter will purchase 4 new music stands and remove the existing damaged ones. He will attempt to repair these if viable, and they will be stored for emergency use. If felt to be too difficult, too expensive or not practical solution, he will dispose of them.

List of suggestions for instrumentation and musician location:

From **Mark:**

1. it is all about finding solutions which engage the congregation in the liturgy
2. electronic solutions whether they be organs or 'bio boxes' as proposed by Andrew, will require training which will 'fade' (for lack of a better word) as people turn over and also be impacted to some degree by the heat which is what has impact the current organ and just general 'abuse' (not a great word but let's face it, it is a public place and sometimes people who know how the gear works won't be available but the gear needs to be used anyway...it should not be something exclusive....so it needs to be idiot proof ...there will be people like me there and I might push a wrong button and blow it all up....
3. I don't like solutions which create an entertainment atmosphere but maybe I am an old 'fuddy duddy'. It is all about getting the congregation to participate rather than listen to some fancy music work whether it be a recording or a live performance
4. today I struggled with the small organ and upon reflection, a few times I could have just got the congregation started and then they can sing on without the instrument - so I will try this in the future....the sustain pedal got stuck and I had to turn off and turn on againbut I am not one to be embarrassed
5. potentially the pool of people who can use an organ (including the pedals) is diminishing...I love the organ but maybe I am a dying breed...I won't be here for ever and the same goes for the other organists *{Note - Godeleive is happy to train organists at a reasonable price. Peter}*
6. but I think we do need a solid 'key board' of some sort
7. so my current view is just get a piano - a decent second hand instrument should not be expensive and an up right piano is robust and won't break down with the heat etc....there is nothing worse than turning up with 5 minutes to spare (or even worse Father is waiting to come down the aisle) and finding either things don't work or someone has changed the settings and in front 500 people I can't work out how to get it back to normal
8. We will all need to adjust what we do to suit a piano (and I for one will miss the organ as I just can't get a piano to do what an organ does) but I think pragmatically from many angles a piano is the way to go
9. In particular this could release budget to get the 'bio box' as well
10. but also for the price of an organ you can buy a collection of instruments like trombones and trumpets and clarinets which I think we should look into...an orchestra would result in more people included in the music ministryand I don't think it is that hard ...just need to make a start. Surrounding Catholic schools run music programs and it is just a matter of tapping into this network...maybe it is something that can be done at a diocesan level
11. we should also ensure there is space for those who want to take their own keyboard - I won't be but others do

On Mark's comments re participation from **Ai Ling:**

1. Could I suggest that the youth group be involved in more youthful music for Mass using drums, clarinets, sax, guitar, percussion etc?
2. Maybe once a month at Sunday 6pm since we now are in need for 6pm Sun musicians? It would draw on a greater cross section of the parish youth rather than just the Catholic schools. Most youth have been in school or community bands and I believe Rachel is quite a musician herself.

On Mark's last comment re space,, from **Bev:**

1. I'll attend the meeting to elaborate but I have to say that regular movement of the electronic piano gets really old when some things are left unplugged or the piano is left so close to the wall that one can't sit at it. Last Sunday, the substitute pedal had been unplugged which freaked me out as I played the entrance hymn.
2. I'm hoping that we can pick a spot or arrangement of furniture that works and allows a reasonable space for singers.
3. Since Fr Callahan does not attend anymore, perhaps it won't matter if we block off the Callahan steps.

On removal or blocking of the Callahan steps, from **Juliet:**

1. I can't easily manage the altar stairs use the Callahan steps when I am going to & from ambo & altar.
2. I'd be reduced to singing the psalm from the side - not liturgically ideal
3. It would also mean I had to miss Communion, taken with the Eucharistic Ministers. If we don't go up with them we were often missed in the end of Communion distribution. Please keep them. I am doing my best to return & use them again.

And from **Peter:**

1. Position of the steps allows easy access to the ambo for singing the Psalm where it belongs. While not everyone does that, it should be the norm that we can aim for. (It allows access to the side of the sanctuary when something irregular happens during mass as well.)