

Music Committee Agenda 7 May 2019

For information items - record.

For items requiring **action**, record **who** and **due date**.

1. Welcome, Opening Prayer: Fr. Paul
2. Attendance:
 - Committee - Fr. Paul, Fr. Stephen, Peter (chair,) Jennifer, Andrew
 - Musicians - Bev, Etta, Marie Fernando, Justin Ankus
 - Other Parishioners: John & Lisa Rossi, Paul Barbero, Cathy Dennis,
3. Apologies: Rob Kennaugh (PPC Council Chair)
4. Set date for next meeting: 4 June *[NOTE: subsequently changed to 2 July 7:30pm]*
5. Special Items:
 - 5.1. Explanation to PPC members and others (should they attend) of musicians' decision about best positioning for carrying out their liturgical functions:

Peter gave a summary of the discussion of the issues, as follows: The committee was requested by the PPC to look at the possibility of relocating the musicians' area as part of the renovation of the pews. This occurred on 5/2/2019 at a committee meeting which many other musicians attended to discuss problems with the organ. The musicians were unanimous in their support for the current position. Some minor improvements had been suggested as part of the pew project and would be part of ongoing work. Fr. Paul reported this position to the chair of the PPC at the next meeting, and it was accepted. Some weeks later, Fr. Paul said there had been a request to look again at the issue. On 23 April, all musicians were notified this and asked again for their thoughts. Although not unanimous, the opinions of the majority were strongly in favour of maintaining the current position. Fr. Paul conveyed this, but asked the committee to hear any further arguments. Peter noted that the position of both the committee and the musicians was based on both practical consideration as well as solid guidance from a plethora of liturgical documents.

Andrew spoke in particular to the most recent document (Fit For Sacred Use,) produced by the National Liturgical Art and Architecture Council under the guidance of the Australian Catholic Bishops' conference. Among many points raised, 1004-1006 note that the music space should presume to have a good relationship to the sanctuary and the ambo, while being part of the assembly. 1013 notes that it should be in a position suitable for leading the people in singing. All of 1013-1021 note that a choir gallery is generally unsuited for music leadership in today's liturgy. 1026 music space should... foster the singing of the assembly. Music leadership should be visible as well as audible.

Cathy Dennis spoke at length regarding the opinion that the musician space should be elsewhere. She noted that the church had originally be designed so that a choir loft could be added in the future if thought necessary. There was also the thought of making space at the end of either of the two outer sets of the pews - either near the current changing room for the altar boys, or near the candle/prayer area. Various musicians pointed out that from these areas, there could be no leadership contact with the assembly, and it would create a liturgical hiatus if the cantor had to process down from their position in the musician's space to the ambo (currently, the space is ideally located for access.) Cathy noted that they had had an independent opinion from an unnamed architect that indicate that the positions were possible, but the rough plans tendered indicated that the suggestions being made would lead to the music leadership losing contact with the assembly. There was also an opinion from an unnamed liturgical expert that the liturgy documents could be interpreted in other ways. The musicians present thought that the most recent document from the Australian Bishops was quite clear and did not need further "interpretation."

Lisa Rossi brought forward the issue of the musicians causing distractions at inappropriate times. This is an issue the committee agrees with and already had on its agenda for discussion and hopefully some ways to minimise this.

Paul Barbero indicated that he saw no need for the musicians to be visible, noting times where a choir singing from a choir loft was able to help him to be more prayerful during mass. He was asked if it made him sing, but he does not sing.

Peter, as chair, noted that the way the process had been handled, had caused major issues with the musicians, with several groups considering resigning. Many of the musicians have given decades of service, spending their own time and money getting both musical and liturgical training and buying resources. They felt that, other than the original request, there appeared to have been a concerted movement to undermine their ministry.

Frs. Paul and Fr Stephen both noted their concern, and John Rossi also noted he had not been aware of any hurt, and apologised for any that had been caused. The parishioners involved in the discussion left at this stage, except for Lisa Rossi and her husband (see next item.)

5.2. Additional musicians:

Lisa had indicated that a number of students from Tangara and Redfield were interested in contributing to the music on Sunday Masses. She was initially concerned that their style of music might not be accepted, but Peter noted that there were already many different styles at different masses, and that it was more a matter of appropriate music choices within any style. He noted that the committee already had had tentative discussions about the lack of liturgical training for some of its groups and hoped to give some guidance. New groups were a good place to start. Some options included playing several times with an existing group and learning from them about things like music choices, copyright issues, etc.

Peter (being retired,) was able to volunteer to help the prospective choir at a mutually acceptable time if this was helpful. As Juliet is still unwell, they were also welcome to come and sing if practice times could be arranged.

5.3. Preliminary discussions of ways to minimise distractions by musicians and singers:

Review at next meeting.

6. Feedback on Lent & Easter

6.1. Mass for Moderns meeting and uptake by musicians during Lent

Training & uptake reasonable. Continue to advise use for Advent & Lent. Peter has extra copies at home - awaiting music lockers.

6.2. Easter Triduum celebrations - anything to learn?

6.3. Veneration of the cross on Good Friday - any issues?

No issues this year, all services went well.

6.4. Consideration of the Sequence for next year

Review at next meeting.

7. Previous & New business for attention:

7.1. Swapping the flower room with Music room - needs for costing

Action: Fr. Paul to get costings.

7.2. Storage of Music:

Suggestion from Malcolm Bocking to move old lockers (currently in the toilets in the Callahan Centre,) into the music room. 2 lockers to be used for storage of maintenance items for the church such as spare bulbs, door handles, etc. The remaining 6 lockers would allow for storage of sheet music more securely. 2 locks would be keyed alike for the maintenance, the other 6 keyed alike for musicians. It has been suggested that padlocks with number codes may be better. **Fr. Paul** suggested that the existing lockers were not in good condition and it might be better to get new lockers. **Review at next meeting.**

7.3. Organ process

7.3.1. Independent review of 1st service

Not yet progressed. Malcom Bocking recommends review from Rod Shellshear on Central Coast who serviced it before Allens changed hands, and who has spare parts.

Review at next meeting.

7.3.2. Christian's determination of suitability of 2nd hand organ & piano.

Fr. Paul said the report from Christian was that both were unsuitable. **CLOSED.**

7.4. Resources - issues obtaining music stands:

Peter has had difficulty obtaining appropriate stands - the ones that seemed to be best value have been discontinued. Justin Ankus suggested we try out Manhasset stands, used by most orchestras.

Action: Peter to locate a supplier, test and purchase if appropriate.

7.5. Vision for sacred music in the parish: a plan for the music ministry in the parish - Liturgical training, new and preferably some common repertoire

Review at next meeting.

7.6. Music resources and books

7.7. Sound equipment

Piano sustain is a problem

Review at next meeting.

7.8. Use of the monitors

Ministry for overheads required. Possibility of expanding this if we get better control of audiovisual processes in the future.

Review at next meeting.