

St. Albert the Great Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2021

Attendees: Fr. Andrew, Chris Moraes, Sarah Pereira, Edith Tyndall, Bob Young, Erin Krysko, Florian Bernardo, Greg Verhappen, Grant Gay, Santos Cuadra, Cheryll Nandee, Bill Werbowski, Maryann Kusmirski, Denise Stoley, David Nolke

Regrets: None

Chris M. called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Opening Prayer and Reflection

Greg V. led us in prayer and reflection. Florian B. to lead the March prayer.

Approval of minutes from January 2021

Motion made to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Moved by: Edith T. Seconded by: Bill W. Carried.

Pastor's report – Fr. Andrew

Sacrament celebrations were held for Bishop O'Byrne High School students to receive Baptism, First Holy Communication and Confirmation.

The parish is preparing for the Lenten season. Not much has changed with respect to AHS restrictions in this past month. We are grateful to all the volunteers for helping with mass.

The Diocese sent a memo saying that essentials groups in the parish, which cannot meet online, are allowed to meet in person. Extra safety measures would be required to accommodate these meetings.

Finance Council report – David N.

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, our parish financials are in a good state. The following financial report was shared with the parishioners during the announcements and in the bulletin this past weekend.

January Collections	Budget	Actual	Shortfall
Operations (Monthly)	\$60,000	\$54,203	\$(5,797)
Mortgage (Monthly)	\$11,500	\$10,206	\$(1,294)
Together in Action (Annually)	\$54,911	\$2,218	\$(52,693)

As part of the announcement, an invitation was made for someone to join the Finance Council.

Old business

Update on masses and volunteers – Bob Y.

We are at full capacity at all three Ash Wednesday masses - 9 am, 5 pm and 7 pm. There will be music at each of the masses. Ashes will be sprinkled on the foreheads.

Stations of the cross will be held on Fridays during Lent following the 6:30 pm mass. People can register for mass and Stations, or just Stations. We have opened the registration for up to 85 attendees. All attendees will stay in their pews and the priest will remain at the altar.

Cleaning and sanitizing mass coordinators have been assigned. This will allow for better training for new volunteers.

The music ministry is recruiting more people to play and sing. We are only allowed a maximum of three people in the choir – two to play instruments and one to sing. Congregational singing is still not permitted.

There have been no reported positive COVID cases among our volunteers.

Our parish is limited to 15% of our fire code capacity which is about 200 attendees. There are a number of no-shows at the weekend masses – about 95 per weekend. If these registrations are not cancelled, then those seats are unused. There are not many walk-ins.

Holy Week mass information will be shared soon.

Website Development – Chris M.

Gerry S. is doing some research on website development and price comparison.

Action: Chris M. to follow up with Gerry S.

Report on ministries - Sarah P.

We are aware of the many ministries that help us with mass celebration in our parish e.g. Choir, Eucharistic ministers, Hospitality (aka Point of Entry and Ushers), Lectors, Cleaning/Sanitizing and Sacristans. In addition to the Finance and Parish Pastoral Councils, the following ministries are active in our parish:

- Catholic Women's League
- Come as You Are
- Community Garden
- Couples for Christ
- Knights of Columbus
- RCIA
- St. Vincent de Paul

The following ministries are temporarily inactive / on hold due to the pandemic restrictions:

- Altar Servers
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Children's Liturgy
- Coming Alive Camp
- Greeting Card
- Pew Cleaners
- TMIY
- 50 and Fabulous Group

I have not contacted (or not received responses from) the following ministries:

- Building Committee
- Decorating Committee
- Funerals
- Mother's Group
- Pastoral Care
- Sunday Social

Fr. Andrew provided a brief status update on the ministries that were in the “not contacted” group.

Most schools were contacted with the Advent message a few months ago. Many schools do not have parent-volunteer school liaisons anymore. The contacts for these schools are the administrative staff.

New business

Communications strategy – Chris M.

Parish Bulletin: Sarah P. has been helping with the parish bulletin by obtaining relevant material from the various ministries.

Parish Calendar: Grant G. is interested in setting this up using TechSoup. The cost is minimal.

As an opportunity for the Council, we have Identified four groups for targeting our parish communication.

1. Schools: There are about 350 teachers in our parish. It would be good to understand what support they need from our parish.
 - a. **Action:** Greg V. to reach out to the Bishop O’Byrne High School.
 - b. **Action:** Chris M. and Sarah P. to draft Lenten communication for schools.
2. Seniors / shut-ins:
 - a. There are technological limitations with connecting with seniors. It may be possible for us to connect with those in Long Term Care and share with them the opportunities for joining in a rosary or sending them a daily scripture reading.
Action: Chris M. / Denise S. to connect with the Pastoral Care team to understand what options are available.
 - b. For those that are shut-in, we need to understand what support they need.
Action: Sarah P. to share plan for outreach to these members of our community.
3. Young children:
 - a. Children’s Liturgy is preparing short weekly Lenten videos for sharing with our parish community.
Action: Sarah P. to follow up with Children’s Liturgy volunteer.
4. Youth: The parish has nothing to offer them at this time. There may be online events that are tailored for young adults.
 - a. **Action:** Greg V. to incorporate this in his discussion with the chaplain from the High School.

Adjournment

Fr. Andrew led us in a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Chris M. (Chair)

Sarah P. (Secretary)