

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

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

Regrets: Erin Krysko, Bill Werbowski

Chris M. called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Opening Prayer and Reflection

Florian B. led us in prayer and reflection. Denise S. to lead the April prayer.

Approval of minutes from February 2021

Motion made to approve the minutes of the February meeting. Moved by: Florian B. Seconded by: Santos C. Carried.

Pastor's report – Fr. Andrew

The only change in restrictions since our last meeting has been a small increase to the number of attendees at funerals. There have not been many other changes to the restrictions in the last month.

St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Feasts will be celebrated this week which might result in more attendees at mass.

The 2021 dates for our parish sacrament celebrations have been confirmed. First Holy Communion celebrations will start after Easter. This will be followed by Confirmation celebrations. RCIA Scrutinies are in progress and the candidates will receive their sacraments the Easter Vigil.

Finance Council report – David N.

The Finance Council has met with the Diocese where it was made clear that our parish will likely have to pay more in the future. However, the timelines for these payments are not clear.

Our operating expenses are less than the budgeted \$60K. When our expenses increase, we will need to decide on how we can generate more funds. Currently our cash position is good.

The Diocese is looking for opportunities to increase savings by using economies of scale e.g., a single agreement with a utilities provider for all parishes.

Our parish is looking into getting the roof repaired of the rectory. We will get three quotes and will likely need to spend \$10-15K. The rectory is an asset of the Diocese.

Old business

Update on masses and volunteers – Bob Y.

There are currently 230 volunteers listed from which 50% are active. We are always recruiting new volunteers.

The Cleaning and Sanitizing coordinators are in place and have been a great help in reducing the number of volunteers required at each mass. One of the coordinators, Ted M., is creating a guide for new volunteers.

There are still a lot of no-shows at our weekend masses. We discussed a few ideas on what could be done to resolve this issue.

Please pray for our volunteers as they have to manage difficult situations and are putting themselves at risk while keeping us safe.

Communication – schools– Chris M. & Greg V.

A Lenten communication was prepared and Dan sent it to the schools. The message included information about the Triduum and Easter mass schedule and how to register for mass. It also had information about Stations of the Cross, how to receive reconciliation during this time and other opportunities at our parish such as the CWL Lenten Sock Drive, invitation to journey with Come As You Are and online videos for Children's Liturgy.

Greg V. connected with Deb E. about what the parish could do to help the High School. They need help with planning the technology for a retreat for Grade 12 students. If the technology does not work, then the retreat becomes shorter. Michael Chiasson will be doing a livestream as part of this retreat.

The students and staff also need help finding good resources to address mental health issues.

Unassigned Action: Find resources to help the High School as requested.

Communication – seniors – Chris M.

The Pastoral Care team operates on their own individual planes. There may be new ways for them to connect with those in Long Term Care via a video link, if requested by the patient.

Unassigned Action: We are looking for a volunteer to connect with shut-ins and seniors.

Communication – young children – Sarah P.

Children's Liturgy has prepared weekly videos during Lent and shared them online. However, the number of views appears to be decreasing. Videos have been created till Easter and a decision will be made on whether to continue. We are looking for more volunteers to help create a bit of a rotation and bring in new ideas.

Action: Chris M. offered to contact the Diocese and ask them to share these videos.

Website Development – Chris M.

Gerry S. has done some research and confirmed that the current website would need to be converted to Wordpress which is what is used by other parishes. It would take \$2.5K – \$3K to update the website. A parishioner has offered to build this for free and has started working on creating a new look for our website. This website will be easier for maintenance going forward. The goal is to have this live by Easter Sunday.

At past Parish Council meetings, there was some discussion about creating a parish calendar. This already exists on the current website and just needed events for it be visible. Events are now added based on the activities in the parish bulletin. This calendar will likely be replaced with the new website with a new version using TechSoup technology.

New business

No new business was discussed.

Adjournment

Fr. Andrew thanked the Parish Council for their support and wished everyone for Easter. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Chris M. (Chair)

Sarah P. (Secretary)