

PPC Report for May 2009

It being national Reconciliation week, the meeting commenced with a reflection on our perceptions of the way Aboriginal people lived their lives. The theme was a quote from Luke, “*Why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, with never a thought for the plank in your own?*” We saw that true and lasting reconciliation will only come from a sustained change of heart at all levels of our community.

Further points discussed at the meeting included

- The Hall kitchen renovation has started, and will be completed during June. The painting will be done in July (hopefully!), which means that the Hall will become fully available by August. Some meetings which do not require the Kitchen will be manageable in the meantime, and any person or group expecting to have use of the Hall in the meantime is asked to contact the Office for further information.
- We spoke of the beautiful Ecumenical Service here on 25th April, but were concerned at the relatively few people who attended
- Similarly, while there was a hardy band at the Marian Procession, the wet weather was undoubtedly a deterrent.
- You will have noticed that there has been a Mass count taken over the last four weeks. This confirmed the steady drop in Mass attendance suffered by many parishes. In our case it has gone from 794 in 2000 to 491 last year, to 425 this year.
- Sue Wakeham and Bridgette Barrett have prepared materials to help inform anyone wanting further information about the Catholic faith. These will be available in both the school and the church.
- The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held on Sunday 26th July. This is a meeting when all members of the community can both hear what is happening, and ask questions, or make suggestions for the welfare of the Parish. We not only look forward to a good turn out on the day, but ask you to start thinking about anyone who may be able to use their talents by being on the Council.
- The main business of the evening was setting the guidelines for the hire and usage of the Parish Hall. Until recently, insurance restrictions made it difficult for the parish to hire out the hall, but these have now been lifted, and so, from August we can rent it out for various specified celebrations. So, when parishioners are thinking of having say, an anniversary party, or a lunch after a Baptism, our Hall could very well be a good venue for them.

Our closing prayer was on how even the smallest act of love changes the balance of love in the world. Little by little, goodness grows. It’ll take a long time, and we don’t expect to live to see it finished, but that’s what we are called to do.