



MINUTES OF CURIA MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 3RD JUNE, 1994

SECTION A

1. **PROPERTY UPDATE** as per status report including
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| Sales | Alexandra | Convent subject to settlement; will go to College of Consultants. |
| Purchases | Watsonia | Government has rejected diocesan offer and is suggesting the presence of another purchaser. DFC advises to hold to previous offer. |
2. **PARISH MATTERS**
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| West St. Kilda | Provided fundraising holds up, Mission's situation looks OK. Diocesan assistance will be tied to two condition;
i) incorporation documents
ii) diocese will lend to parish, not the Mission. |
| Melton South | Parish is experiencing financial hardship and will need to
i) reduce staff
ii) reorganise property portfolio.
Mr. Exell raised the long term possibility of re-amalgamation to Melton Parish. It was noted that growth in the Melton area is most likely to be on the other side of Melton. |
| Craigieburn | Mr. Exell to meet with Father Doyle with a view to advising the Archbishop regarding the possibility of a new school at Roxburgh Downs. |
| Croydon | Purchase of new Church has gone ahead; MSC plans ongoing; little interest in the Hewish Road property. |



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3. **DIOCESAN ANNUAL FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**
Have been approved by the Auditor and will be available for next DFC meeting (9.6.94).
4. **TOMORROW'S CHURCH - COST OF PILOT PROGRAMME**
Mr. Exell reported that the DEMF has accepted in principle to fund the cost of the pilot programme (parish money to fund parish programmes).
5. **ACCELERATED REPAYMENT OF DEMF LOANS**
In response to a concern expressed by the Archbishop, a letter will go to the affected parishes (62 parishes, 8 regional colleges) prior to the announcement of this plan at the next Senate - 14th June, 1994.
6. **NATIONAL LITURGICAL MUSIC CONVENTION - follow-up activities**
Mr. Exell has prepared a document for the Archbishop to take to next Senate of Priests outlining Mr. M. Wood's proposals for future Conferences and new hymnal.
7. **MEETING WITH PREMIER, FRIDAY 10TH JUNE**
Three items on the agenda
 - i) Cathedral works
 - ii) Cathedral appeal
 - iii) Cathedral Place precinct
8. **CATHOLIC FAMILY WELFARE BUREAU**
A proposal for debt control restructuring is still under consideration.
9. **MANNIX COLLEGE**
Mr. Exell reported that evidence of financial impropriety has led to an investigation, and a report is expected soon. Legal advice has been sought.
10. **RESTORATION OF ST. FRANCIS' CHURCH**
Further to a report at last Curia, St. Francis have indicated they wish to ask Mr. M. Keogh, Catholic Fundraising, to assist with their appeal. Unease has been expressed about maintaining the integrity of the Cathedral Appeal donors' list.
11. **GEE LONG AGED CARE PROJECT**
Planning is continuing under DFC monitoring. Sisters of Mercy involvement is still in the planning stage. Mr. Exell to follow up.



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12. **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF CCC - letter to Father Connell**
Copy of Mr. Exell's letter to the Rector will be forwarded to the Archbishop. An invitation has been extended to Father A. Guelen to join the Committee.
13. **C.T.C. - repairs**
Ongoing repairs (about \$6,000) required. Mr. Exell will prepare a report for the Bishops.
14. **AUSTRALIAN PARENT ADVOCACY INC.**
Mr. Exell reported on his meeting with the representative from Queensland. APA Inc. consists of parents of intellectually disabled who want an organisation to negotiate with Government.
15. **VIETNAMESE - FLEMINGTON**
Bishop Connors reported on his recent meeting with members of the Committee and their complaints against Father Vo Tien. Bishop Connors to contact Father Murphy.
16. **SPECIAL ISSUES - meeting with Corrs**
The Archbishop reported on his meeting with Barry O'Callaghan and Tony Darvall regarding diocesan handling of special issues. They recommended
- i) an appropriate person review all clergy files, and
 - ii) the handling of special issues be the responsibility of a senior priest .

Discussion followed on the nature of privilege and the confidentiality of material gathered for admission to the seminary.

The draft procedural statement (6th June) for diocesan clergy regarding allegations of sexual abuse was discussed. Bishops to forward feedback to the Vicar General; draft will be sent to Corrs for comment. It was agreed the draft was not ready to be presented at next meeting of Senate of Priests.

It was agreed that Fathers Fleming and Waters should review the clergy files.

SECTION B

1. **PAPAL APOSTOLIC LETTER ON ORDINATION OF WOMEN**
Discussion on the public disagreement expressed in the secular press by priests and religious was discussed. The Archbishop has written to the five diocesan priests who had written to "The Age." Bishop Pell said the Archbishop needed to make a public gesture in response. It was agreed to review the situation in the light of the priests reply to the Archbishop's letter.



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2. **FATHER JOHN VAN SUYLEN**

Father Fleming advised that Mr. John Date was acting as broker in negotiations on behalf of Father Van Suylen. Sir James Gobbo has agreed to act as mediator. It would need to be clearly held that mediation would involve no review of the merits of the case and would depend on Father Van Suylen's unconditional withdrawal of the Writ.

3. **POLICY STATEMENT ON PASTORAL ASSOCIATES (tabled)**

The document forwarded by Father Maurie Cooney is proposed as the basis for a round table conference with civil and canon lawyers, CROPP, pastoral associates, representatives of the diocese. It was agreed the document be reworked by Father Fleming and presented to the pastoral associates as the penultimate version prior to adoption.

4. **FATHERS BILL DURKIN/HUGO FERNANDES OSB**

Vicar General advised that Father Durkin would be on sick leave for another three weeks. Father Fernandes, from Sydney on three weeks holiday, had indicated his willingness to supply in the parish.

5. **FATHER GRAHAM CARTER**

A priest from Toowoomba about to commence an MA at Monash University for two years; Ashburton was suggested as a possible residence.

6. **FATHER JOHN TREACY**

The Vicar General advised that Father Treacy was living at Rye. He had no faculties, although he had conducted some funerals at a local funeral parlour.

It was agreed the Vicar General would seek advice from Father Gerry Gallagher.

7. **FATHER ANJOU SOARES**

The Vicar General advised that Father Soares from Pakistan will be visiting relatives in Oakleigh between July - December. His Bishop has requested he be permitted to conduct mission appeals. It was agreed the standard reply would be given and Father Soares would be directed to Father N. Wilson, PMS.

8. **EXORCISM**

The Vicar General has received a request from Father Searson, Doveton, seeking permission to conduct an exorcism. The Vicar General will contact Fathers Tom White and Joe Grech for advice.



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9. **HADFIELD PARISH**

Profile has been received. Bishop O'Connell has got additional information and figures from Father K. Burke.

10. **RESERVING BLESSED SACRAMENT IN PRIVATE RESIDENCE**

A request has been received by the Vicar General from a prayer group in Canterbury to reserve the Blessed Sacrament. It was agreed this would not be permitted.

11. **ACU AND CATHOLIC HOSPITALS - BIOETHICS CENTRE**

Bishop Connors advised that a Consortium had been formed which will become an incorporated body to be subsidised by the hospitals, and located at the Mercy Hospital. The Archbishop asked whether the diocese should be formally involved. Bishop Pell said that ACU would be proceeding with caution.

12. **CRAIGIEBURN**

Bishop O'Connell advised that Father Spierings had indicated his desire to be moved at the end of 1994.

Next meeting of Curia, Tuesday, 21st June, 1994, at 2.00 pm.

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