

Parish Pastoral Council 9 September, 2020

Report on Ecumenism

The concept of a Reconciliation Action Plan has already been raised in this Council and in the Parish at large.

Aboriginal Committee in the Parish of St Augustine

It is important that we now proceed to establish an Aboriginal Committee in the parish and that we bring our discussions so far to the Committee with a view to achieving the reconciliation that we seek.

On the theme of the significance of the site that was chosen for the first church of St Augustine, I have done some initial reading, which I have mentioned to Father Mick and Sarah Johnston. First, a document from the ACT Heritage Council produced in November 2017 provides background information on the Corroboree Ground and Aboriginal Cultural Area, Queanbeyan River. I will attach that document to this report. Second, it sets the context for what is probably the most important book to refer to next, J. Flood's *The Moth Hunters: Aboriginal prehistory of the Australian Alps* (Canberra: Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, 1980).

Prayer in the Spirit of Taizé

I have received a report from Paul Tresize, which I include here.

Late last year a number of parishioners attended an information session on the Taizé ecumenical community and decided to hold monthly prayer in the spirit of Taizé services throughout 2020 at 5pm on the first Sunday of each month. The first service was held at the Murrumbateman Uniting Church in December 2019 and further services were held in February and March 2020. The March service had around 15 attendees, mainly drawn from the Murrumbateman and Yass Catholic communities but with a few people from other denominations.

Following the March service it became clear that it would be unsafe to continue with face-to-face prayer given the situation with COVID-19 and the well-documented health risks associated with community singing and chanting. For this reason the prayer services for the months of April-September have been held online via Zoom. This is not the same as the real thing but better than nothing – we are averaging around 10 participants and the feedback from them has been positive.

We plan to continue the online services for the remainder of 2020 and return to face-to-face prayer as soon as it's safe to do so. In the meantime the PPC might like to consider promoting Taizé prayer to our Catholic community, particularly to those many parishioners who are in "at risk" groups and still do not feel comfortable about attending Mass.

3 September, 2020

Bryan Coleborne
9 September, 2020

Attached: Document from ACT Heritage Council, November 2017