



# General Monthly Youth Meeting

Monday, 2 May 2011



General Monthly Meeting Details		
Monday, 2 May 2011	7.30pm – 9.30pm	SN Church, Punchbowl
Meeting called by	John Daher	
Type of meeting	Monthly general meeting	
Facilitator	John Daher + Mark Semaan	
Note taker(s)	Natalie El-Roueihib	
Timekeeper	N/A	
Apologies	Rana Boughosen, Sally Daher, Zouzou Attallah, Margaret Jabbour, Saidie Daher, Jomana Daher, George Daher, Michel Nahas, Elias Attallah, Catherine Attallah, Najwa Nahas	
Commenced	7.40pm	
Adjourned	9.50pm	

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Previous Month – Action Items			
DATE:	<u>May 2011</u>		
Committee	Action Item	Comments	Complete?
Executive	Pass on fee for \$700 (half of total cost) required to replace fence we share with a neighbor to parish council	<i>John Daher under instruction from Father John – at next parish council meeting</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasury	Make outstanding payment to Deb's Castles – finally got back to us and threatening us for a cheque (\$1,400) – has been delayed due to incidents and poor service they had on the day as well as late setup and commencement.		<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary	Email Tania Mihailuk – congratulate her on her winning		<input type="checkbox"/>
Caretakers	Research cost of purchasing a chainsaw for the church – to decide on purchase or not next meeting		<input type="checkbox"/>
Choir	Prepare for upcoming Saint Elias choir concert	Rescheduled to Friday 27 May (Wollongong)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications	SC to meet up and delegate roles to interested members	Projector needs to be set up – suggested after renovations as there is too much going on in the church house	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications	Add Norm as Admin in Facebook group		<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications	Revamp project for website -ongoing	<i>Bechara willing to help train</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications	Khristo to renew Father John's email address subscription		<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications	John to sit with Khristo / communications committee and setup update procedure for uploading weekly parish bulletin online (provided by Father John)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications	Give Picasa account details to Assaad Attallah to update and maintain parish website gallery going forward		<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications	New – newsletter committee to get together asap and brainstorm ideas and process for producing and maintaining a parish newsletter.	Expressions of interest: Daniel, Ashley, Isabel <i>**To meet up in coming weeks and discuss ideas/layout/ action plan, etc</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Service	Finish pamphlet for feeding the homeless service and get approval – hand out in time for next shift		<input type="checkbox"/>





<b>Community Service</b>	Isabel to work out best date for Punchbowl's biggest sebheyeh with Natalie and lock in calendar	<i>Isabel prefers a Saturday</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Community Service</b>	Put together hamper of Maronite statues of the Resurrection, etc, for Attar Moussa who organised the t-shirts for us	Let Abouna know once Isabel gets his address – would like to visit with her	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Junior Youth</b>	Meet up asap – need to start planning for Jr Youth Movie event	<i>2 members min is fine and invite John to come along</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Religious</b>	Look into and finalise bus transportation for monastery trip – see if St Mary's mini bus is available.		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Social Events</b>	Find a hall for trivia if Church hall is not available before the 12 of June: – Punchbowl Boys – Croydon Park – St Euphemia – stated better option **Fr John to speak with contact		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Social Events</b>	Decide and book venue for youth dinner (25 May)		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Social Events</b>	Decide and book venue for annual youth dinner (23 July)	Speak to Wendy Daoud for the Grand Royale – has already reserved date for us	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sports</b>	Committee needs to meet up and vote for a Chairperson before next event	Mark responsible to organise meeting – planned for Friday 6 May	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sports</b>	Need to choose a new date for the Indoor Sports event due to clash with Retreat weekend.	Bechara to talk to his school about hiring hall for an indoor soccer competition scheduled on 24 June	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>YC General</b>	Open up our common questions to the public – put together and print out a few multiple choice questions on an A5 page and survey parishioners each Sunday evening after liturgy service for a month.	Mark to coordinate Daniel Simo happy to print off when finalised	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>YC General</b>	Reestablish the meet and greet committee – Micha, Chadi, Bechara, Mark, Norm (we should all be doing this as well)	Before the liturgy ends – be at the back ready to catch them on the way out Greet them, try and establish a relationship with them	<input type="checkbox"/>





Upcoming Month – Action Items			
DATE:	<u>June 2011</u>		
Committee	Action Item	Comments	Complete?
Select Committee			<input type="checkbox"/>
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Opening Discussion	
Opening	All – led by John Daher
Discussion	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Opening prayer (led by Father John)</b></li><li>2. <b>Run down / agenda and apologies</b> (led by Mark)</li><li>3. <b>Sports committee</b> – outstanding item – announced meeting for election and role discussion</li><li>4. <b>Run through upcoming dates</b> (led by Mark, John and Secretary)</li><li>5. <b>Welcome to new comers</b> – Michael and Daniel. Keen to come to the church regularly and get involved.  John gave them an overview of the meeting – subcommittee reports, upcoming events, etc.</li></ol>	
Conclusions	
N/A	

Executive Committee Report	
5 minutes	Executive Committee
N/A – ran through dates in General Business section.	

Clergy's report	
Ongoing	Fr John Karaan
<b>Spiritual message + Clergy report</b> Would like to thank the youth for all their hard work over the Pascha season. Choir on Palm Sunday gave a beautiful performance. Clergy – symposium – 11 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> May – theme: marriage counseling. Abouna has been trying to do that in our church but cannot do it alone. Hoping to reach a conclusion at the symposium to ensure all couples go through a course before marriage (about family life, future relationships, experience with the church pre and post marriage, commitment to the church), etc. Need to pay respect to this. Notice a few new boys after the liturgy yesterday – need to ensure we all remember to put forward a level of pastoral care. They are very keen about becoming involved – (eg. Daniel in the website) **John has been encouraging them to come along and be involved – in process). We are effective tools in this mission. Thank you for the nursing home visit and all our other effort.	



**Treasury Report****5 minutes**      **Christine Eskaff****Monthly Financial Report (Summary): April 2011**

	<b>\$AUD</b>
Opening Balance	12,646.17
Income*	915.90
<i>Less: Expenses**</i>	<i>(9,519.08)</i>
Closing Balance	<u>4,042.99</u>

\* Income Sources: Collection trays – not many as no liturgy on Palm Sunday and Pascha, etc.

\*\* Expenses: Bills (AGL energy and Optus), donation to St Nicholas Parish Council (for **\$8,646.17**)

**John's questions:**

- i) Deb's castles – finally got back to us and threatening us for a cheque (\$1,400) – has been delayed due to incidents and poor service they had on the day as well as late setup and commencement. Treasury to make payment.
- ii) Cheque to make out for a fence we share with our neighbor (\$700) – to pay half.  
Father John advised to pass on to parish council to deal with this.

<i>Motioned by</i>	<i>Norm Elias</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>	<i>Paul Georges</i>
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**ACOY Committee Report****5 minutes**      **John Daher**

Retreat happening on the last weekend of June (24-26<sup>th</sup>)  
Calendar to come up on the Arch-diocese website soon if not already there.

<i>Motioned by</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>	<i>N/A</i>
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**Altar Boys Committee Report****5 minutes**      **Mark Semaan**

Nothing to report.

<i>Motioned by</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>	<i>N/A</i>
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**Bookshop Committee Report****5 minutes**      **John Daher (on behalf of Sally Daher – given apology)**

Sally and Zouzou getting married in a few weeks so don't have a fully functional bookshop at the moment and have asked to put bookshop on hold for a while.

Father John to bring in some childrens Bibles.

Bookshop placing an order for icons – let them know asap if after any icon in particular.

<i>Motioned by</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>	<i>N/A</i>
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**Care-takers Committee Report****5 minutes****Paul Georges****April 2011:**

- Neighbour – trimmed the tree hanging over their fence.
- Thank you to helpers during week before/after Pascha. Church was very messy over this time. Had an issue with the bins – couldn't fit all the rubbish in the bins so left around the bins. Iris' (birds) used their beaks to spread the rubbish all over the place.  
Suggestion: next year keep this in mind and hire a new bin – especially for BBQs, etc.  
Mark – suggested to talk to Joe Eskaff senior.
- Presentation of the church is very important – if people see rubbish all over the church, will think we don't care about the church, etc.
- Lemon tree in the corner of the church car park – need someone with a chainsaw – call Albert?  
\*\*Consider buying a chainsaw for the church? Paul says would be great need as he strained himself using the snippers. Joe says not worth it. Paul to look into prices and agree/disagree next month.
- Wooden fence is falling apart and full of weeds – is a hazard. Between the church and the car park. Abouna to have a look and give the ok to take down.
- Any suggestion for continuous maintenance of the church – please pass on to Paul.

*Motioned by**Joe Eskaff**Seconded by**Norm Elias***Choir Committee Report****5 minutes****John Daher****Choir concert recap**

- Father John had previously been asking for the St Nicholas english choir to organise a choir concert, however as they didn't have enough experience, this was not feasible.
- Fortunately, received an invitation from St Mary's Church, Mays Hill to perform in a choir concert they were hosting. Vasilli Psilacos (Byzantine teacher) was the leader and was supported by members from other parish choirs.
- Was a successful and blessed evening (Saturday 16 April 2011), under the patronage of his eminence Metropolitan Paul Saliba.

**Upcoming – May 2011**

- Have been invited to put on a choir concert for Saint Elias' church in Wollongong by Father Ephraim (asked Father John).
- Scheduled for Friday 13 May, 2011.
- Choir to prepare and perform.

*Motioned by**Nicholas Bitar**Seconded by**Mark Semaan*



<b>Communications Committee Report</b>			
<b>5 minutes</b>	<b>Khristo Zakhour</b>		
<b>Emails</b>			
Question for Abouna: how is the email account going? Email address is up for renewal. \$18/year. Khristo will renew the email as Abouna has been using it.			
<b>Website</b>			
Going well – nothing else to update. John has made a few changes to the site – main page. Also created a section on the youth page to share minutes going forward. Gallery online – outdated. Idea to give account details to Picasa account to Assaad Attallah – great with photos and uploading – very passionate about it. Bulletin – not updated since early 2010. Abouna used to email to Karl. Khristo will need to chase this up if not received. John will sit with Khristo and make sure process put in place. Abouna's question – anyone interested in being the editor for the weekly Parish bulletin we receive each week or creating a parish newsletter (every few weeks/months -- eg. recent marriages, etc). <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sections: Clergy/parish; Sunday school, Events, etc – one person responsible to chase up each section/committee for newsletter content.</li><li>- Suggestion – print out --- not great idea as will be very costly – printing in colour and mailing will be big cost.</li><li>- Interested: Daniel, Ashley, Isabel – to meet up and discuss ideas/layout/action plan, etc.</li></ul>			
<b>General Discussion</b>			
Committee still to meet – try and meet after today's meeting.			
<i>Motioned by</i>	<i>Louie Ghadie</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>	<i>Michael Daoub</i>





Community Service Committee Report			
5 minutes	Isabel Antoun		
<b>Nursing home visit</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Held – Sunday 11 April 2011.</li> <li>- Attendees appreciated because closer to our faith.</li> <li>- Thanks to all those who attended and helped with preparing the gifts.</li> </ul>			
<b>Feeding the homeless</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Starting in two weeks – will run in a week outside of the movie night schedule.</li> <li>- Anthony preparing a flyer to advertise to the rest of the church – to encourage anyone to attend.</li> </ul>			
<b>T-shirts update</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Received Saint Nicholas t-shirts – anyone who wants one, see Isabel. Can give a donation if they like.</li> <li>- Gave ladies committee and Joe Eskaff’s dad aprons as a gift from the youth committee.</li> <li>- Going to put together a hamper of Maronite statues of the Resurrection, etc for the man (Attar Moussa) who organised the t-shirts for us. Let Abouna know once get his address – would like to visit with her.</li> </ul>			
<b>Upcoming events</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Punchbowl’s biggest Sebheyeh – looking at some time in June. Nat – find most appropriate time in calendar (Isabel prefers a Saturday).</li> </ul>			
Motioned by	Bechara Bitar	Seconded by	Joe Eskaff

Junior Youth Committee Report			
5 minutes	Ashley Saliba		
<b>Report:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apologises – has been very busy and not able to fulfill the 30<sup>th</sup> April – Junior youth day.</li> <li>- Are ok to commit to the 29<sup>th</sup> October – keen to stick to the movie event. Are thinking of holding it at Reading Cinema, Auburn + meal at Alcatraz right next door.</li> <li>- Committee to meet soon and start planning. Movie needs to be suitable for junior youth audience.</li> <li>- Ashley said no members respond to her text messages requesting help and organisation of meetings. John confirmed OK if just Ashley, Nicholas Bitar, John and Jomana (secretary). Need to keep going even if not all present. Planning at high-level then delegate/share responsibilities outside of this.</li> </ul>			
<b>Discussion:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- John question for Ashley – why aren’t students coming to Sunday School? Exams? Other commitments? All seem busy with studies, etc – to look at encouraging attendance.</li> </ul>			
Motioned by	N/A	Seconded by	N/A



**Religious Committee Report**

5 minutes

Micha Chalhoub

**Next event scheduled: Monastery visit**

- Meant to have monastery visit on 7 May 2011, but due to Pascha, etc haven't had time to organise. Father John has not been able to attend that date or other dates.
- Looking at Saturday, 18 June 2011 – looks ok. Only have the St George Annual Function at night.
- Request to plan for transportation – committee to organise bus (St Mary or other mode).
- Holy Cross (Mangrove mountain) and Pantanassa (Gosford – monastery currently being built now – once built, will be closed off to ladies) – on the same day.
- Micha has already spoken to them.

**Wednesday night – movie night (fortnightly)**

- Starting again Wednesday 11 May 2011
- Abouna will have the Clergy Symposium. Hall will be free at night. He will pass on the movie.

**Tea and coffee for Fellowship**

- Put a roster together. To roll out from 1 May 2011.
- Put in place – just have not put in place.
- Thank you to Jane and Margaret who organised tea and coffee yesterday.
- Father Romanos' birthday this Sunday – going to talk to his family and get them to come here and cut them a cake. Mary's birthday yesterday – 50<sup>th</sup>.
- Najwa is organising the cake.

**Financial Summary**

- Closing balance: \$1,070.85 (religious picnic in the park, donations, etc)

**General Discussion**

- **Bechara – suggestion:** really like the youth talks that ran after the Sunday evening liturgy – good opportunity to encourage youth to come to the liturgy on Sunday's. Look at starting that up again.  
Abouna would really like to discuss this further. Will discuss in General Business section.
- Thank you to Abouna, Mark, Micha, and anyone else who helped out with the combined dinner put on after the evening Pascha service – was delicious, massive effort and a great night.
- **Follow up on previous months' request:** To have the Gospel read for the congregation to follow easier.  
Consensus was that it was easier to understand when read. Chanting of epistle still ok to continue.

Motioned by

Daniel Simo

Seconded by

Joe Eskaff



**Social Events Committee Report****5 minutes****Anthony Ishak****Youth Dinner**

- **Date:** 25 May 2011
- **Colour theme:** red black and silver.
- **Location:** Possibly Johnny's pizza. Send any recommendations to Anthony by SMS.
- **Update:** No set location yet – still to confirm. Keep free. Alyson's in Belfied is an option.

**Karaoke/Trivia night**

- Looking at a location (Jane)
- Open for suggestions: St Euphema, Bankstown – Abouna to find out price and speak with them to book.

**Saint Nicholas Haffleh**

- Looking for a location. Thinking La Fontana – as the parish haffleh is at Grand Royale.
- Abouna and John: prefer Grand Royale – John has tentatively booked – would rather support a location owned by members of the church.

*Motioned by**Nicholas Bitar**Seconded by**Micha Chalhoub***Sports Committee Report****5 minutes****Bechara Bittar on behalf of Margaret Jabbour (absent)****April 2011 Report**

- Due to Margaret stepping down last in March and the business around Pascha, weren't able to organise a meeting.
- Spoken to a few members interested in heading up the committee
- Election scheduled for this Friday 6 May – around 6.30/7pm for those who want to go to the St Michael and Gabriel haffleh afterwards.
- Pass on the message to anyone who may be interested in leading the sports committee. Also come along if interested in joining – will be re-allocating
- **Suggestion:** potential to organise event to next week's game (support for St George) to kick off new committee. Mark has left a message on Todd Greenburb's machine to see if can get cheaper tickets / other discounts. SC that meets on Friday can meet up and decide on this as first order of business.
- **Clashes with choir concert for St Elias' church** – be cautious does not deter choir members from the performance. John has encouraged everyone to go to the choir concert first and foremost. That said, very happy for an event like this to go ahead – very new and innovative event.
- Michael has expressed interest and will be looking at joining the committee.

*Motioned by**Michael Daoub**Seconded by**Daniel Simo*



### Sunday School Committee Report

5 minutes

John Daher (on behalf of Najwa Nahas – given apology)

If you have nieces or nephews, etc, pass on the message that Sunday School is back in action.

**Starts: 9.30am**

<Kids go to communion together>

**Ends: 11.00am**

**Question: Mother's day presents?**

- John will speak to Najwa.
- Secretary to send out message calling for help when organised.

Motioned by

Bechara Bitar

Seconded by

Christine Eskaff



**General Business / Close****10 minutes****All – led by John Daher****Open floor discussion****Open floor**

**Fellowship / greeting new comers:** the way put on the spot yesterday and previous events (Michael Daoub)

- Appreciated this and really encouraged them to come along today.  
Should apply this approach to other new comers. Weren't embarrassed. More encouraging.  
*Feedback from newcomers:* very daunting at first – a bit exclusive and felt like outsiders.  
Previously were coming for years, but jump in the car and head off straight after liturgy.
- *John:* never wanted that to be the atmosphere – everyone should always feel welcome.
- *Abouna:* reaffirmed the need for this pastoral care. This is the purpose of the fellowship.
- **Decision:** Reestablish the meet and greet committee – Micha, Chadi, Bechara, Mark, Norm (we should all be doing this as well).  
Before the liturgy ends – be at the back ready to catch them on the way out. Greet them, try and establish a relationship with them.  
*Abouna:* don't attack / be overbearing – kind word, start discussion, give them an icon, etc.
- **Future goal:** down the track, have the fellowship held outside the church since most congregate there.  
To occur when weather and timing permits. Consider holding it downstairs. Weekly discretion.

**General observation – constant questions should be opened up to the public:**

- Open up our common questions to the public. Print out a few multiple choice questions on an A5 page and hand out / collect after a liturgy (Daniel Simo happy to print off when finalised)
- We are answering questions like date preference, type of talks, etc, but then don't get many outside of the committee turn up. As such, work out what the congregation would prefer.
- John's suggestion: have a couple of people ask the questions (can be online) – 2 tables (one on each side) laptop on each hooked up to a brief form. Run over a month. Collect names and emails at the same time. Draw a prize for entrants. Mark to look into.  
*Eg. What do you think should be on after a Sunday night?  
i) Tea/Coffee, ii) Talk, iii) Movie, iv) Other*

**Suggestion for other events:**

- Hold a competition like MasterChef (eg. Saint Nicholas MasterChef (Christo's suggestion))
- Youth to participate in making the holy bread (ourban)– very important for youth to get exposure to this
- Nintendo night suggested. Pass on to sports committee
- Mark suggested that something needs to be done for the Sunday of the Grand Final. Paul suggested State of Origin night. Should be given to sports committee.
- Bechara, Micha, Chady and Norm to approach new members of the youth.

**Abouna Romanos dropped by** – gave summary from building committee.

For any interested in donating to church building project – really need help with the following three items:

1. Air condition
2. Sound system
3. TBC

