



General Monthly Youth Meeting

Monday, 4 April 2011



General Monthly Meeting Details		
Monday, 4 April 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)	Rana Boughosen / Natalie El-Roueihib	
Timekeeper	N/A	
Apologies	Sally Daher, Zouzou Attallah, Jane Daher, Margaret Jabbour, Saidie Daher, George Daher, Michel Nahas, Elias Attallah, Ashley Saliba.	
Commenced	8.23pm (after Compline service) – in Hall under the Church	
Adjourned		

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Previous Month Action Items			
Prev. month:	<u>April 2011</u>		
Committee	Action Item	Comments	Complete?
Treasury	Account Number of SNAP needs to be given to St Mary's Mays Hill to contribute \$100/fortnight	\$4,000 dollars will remain in SNAP account and the rest – approx \$8,000 was given to PC	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary	Email Tania Mihailuk – congratulate her on her winning		<input type="checkbox"/>
Caretakers	Clean up needs to be organised before Pascha	SMS reminder to be sent on the day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Caretakers	Asked by a neighbour to cut down tree at the behind the church		<input type="checkbox"/>
Choir	Suggested more practice lessons before pascha	Choir Concert 16 April – extra practice sessions required	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications	SC to meet up and delegate roles to interested members **Need a communications leader	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	Bechara willing to help train	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Service	Confirm feeding the homeless service frequency for the coming months – once a fortnight / month?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Service	Nursing Home visit 10 April – Isabel and Jomana to dress up as bunnies		<input type="checkbox"/>
Junior Youth	Need to figure out ASAP what will be done for Saturday the 30 th of April	<i>Suggestions:</i> - Easter Show - Pascha Show (Talent Quest) - Fox Studios Family day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parish Council	Letters are to go out concerning the extension of the church – production line needed to fold and stamp envelopes	700 + families have been spoken to by Father John	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religious	Decide on a film to show after the Good Friday service – either King of Kings or The Passion of Christ ?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Religious	Roster for Tea and Coffee to be organised and commences	Effective 1 May	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religious	Gather thoughts on decision made to chant Epistle and read Gospel – effective change? Better response?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Events	Find a hall for trivia if Church hall is not available before the 12 of June: - Punchbowl Boys - Croydon Park - St Ephimia – stated better option	Annual youth dinner 23 July – speak to Wendy Daoud for the Grand Royale	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports	Committee needs to meet up and vote for a Chairperson – before next event	More commitment required overall Mark responsible to organise meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports	Bechara to talk to his school about hiring hall for an indoor soccer competition scheduled on 24 June		<input type="checkbox"/>





Opening Discussion

Opening All – led by John Daher

Discussion

1. Sports committee lead resignation – Margaret Jabbour

Margaret has recommended and spoken to Bechara (his concern is that he cannot attend Monday meetings).

YC objection – not been part of the Youth Committee before.

John – not discount someone for that reason. In support of his efforts, Bechara has been in the church his whole life. Advice given by a Father – should allocate rolls according to ability not time/history.

Floor open to nomination/election:

- Michael Nahas – cannot commit to lead but happy to help

** Mark Semaan to organise a sports committee meeting to discuss future and manage commitments

2. Run down / agenda – apologies, Christine, sub committees
3. Run through upcoming dates
4. Alison's – last event for Abouna Issac's dinner – said 'thank you' for our visit. Were very happy with our group and happy to cater to us in the future. Just provide notice.
5. Correspondence from NZL (Queenstown) – Deacon Dr Keith offered very 'simple' accommodation (slept on the floor) to John, George and Elias when they were in NZL. He leads a very simple existence and is very serious about his faith. The boys tried to help him out by cleaning the household a little before they left. Also offered to help if ever in need as he is part of our Parish.

He recently emailed John and said that he had children in Samoa and needed backpacks, books, etc to help in their move to Queenstown. John sent across a donation of AU\$130 / NZ\$150 and received an email response from his wife thanking the youth in Australia for their support.

Abouna wanted to highlight that it is important that we support the church's mission box, rather than support outside of the mission of the church and against the direction of the Arch-bishop. helping someone in the name of the church must go past the archdiocese.

Youth upset that we can spend funds on air-condition, etc, but must seek approval to send a small amount of money to help those less fortunate. Mark pushed to reimburse John – John would not accept as he donated it outside the meeting due to the urgent request that could not wait for the next GM – although he did contact the executive committee and gain all members' approval to assist.

FJ: Happy to help the missions around the world but need to follow the correct protocol.

Conclusions

Sports Committee to be revamped – meeting for future structure and responsibilities to be arranged by Mark.

Youth need to follow the correct protocol when assisting missionaries around the world – ie. Seek approval for any financial donation from the Bishop.

Executive Committee Report

5 minutes Executive Committee

N/A – ran through dates in General Business section.



**Clergy's report****Ongoing****Fr John Karaan****Part 1: Spiritual talk**

Principal of our role in the church is not to serve ourselves but those around us.

Jesus proclaimed to go forth for the mission, not to seek our own desires.

We have many blessed social activities and events, but the main goal of our mission is for God's Glory to shine to and through us. Our goal to achieve is to go out and bring those who have strayed back to the Church. Someone must continue this mission.

Current climate of the world – Islam is prevalent all over the world. There were 2 Muslims fighting Christ in the church. They did not find the light in the Church – the sad thing is that we as Christians are not even taking up the light of Christ. In Australia, 750 Muslims became Christians in Australia.

The first people that need to receive the light are the Christians – this is our big responsibility, otherwise the torch of Christ will be quenched. Many have lost hope, faith and trust, but if we can help provide it, we can change our own lives and those around us. This is why we are here – to serve Christ. This mentality is what makes us a Church. It is different to be a leader – compare it to a Father whose son doesn't come to church. They need someone to bring them back. Like us – we need to take it seriously.

Last time Father hosted Wednesday night (talk) – he was greatly disappointed and upset that there were only 3 who attended. The committee changed the night to meet the needs of attendees, but still not committed and attending. Life without seriousness is not life.

We need to sanctify our self – our hope and our deed... then we can help those around us.

We need to repent and take things more seriously.

Part 2: Continued report**Clergy meeting:**

1. One service at Pascha - *bilingual*
2. Complaint against St Nicholas – not contributing to mission box.

Decision: once a month to be dedicated solely to the mission box – Sunday nights.

Additional collections:

Palm Sunday – for Balamand (every Archbishop who has students in Balamand is responsible for them financially)

Good Friday – as with Palm Sunday

Mission – mission box – arch bishop in his wisdom to direct this distribution

Akathyst – collection for the previous Wednesday service of pre-sanctified service

Start advertising what the collection each week/event is for.

3. Sound system – have two quotes (one professional, one voluntary). Karaan is already speaking to someone – to take over and coordinate with the setting up of the sound system in the church. Otherwise \$4,000 required to setup separate to the church project.

Reason being – hoping to have ready in case required for the annual Symposium on 4th May.

Suggestion: watch License to Wed – movie for pre-marriage counseling.

Very happy with the attendance on Sunday evening liturgy. Don't know if because church is shorter, but thinks the unity, trust and spiritual stability is stronger. Attendees seem happier in the church. Choir and fellowship is flourishing. Very good chanting and very proud of them. As much as we can need to keep working for the benefit of the community and share the mission and spiritual job. When the construction is finished – we can extend to greater audience.



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

	\$AUD
Opening Balance	12,992.63
Income*	1,543.30
<i>Less: Expenses**</i>	<u><i>(346.46)</i></u>
Closing Balance	<u>12,646.17</u>

* Income Sources: Collection trays

** Expenses: Bills, Reimbursement to Sally for projector, Cancellation fee of cheque book, Optus Bill, Bankstown Council Rates, Sydney Water Bill.

Distribution of funds:

Keep \$4,000 in the account and give the rest to the loan.

Cheque made out to Parish Council for **\$8,646.17** – actioned, signed and presented to Michael Bittar in the meeting.

Update to February 2011 report – provided by Christine.

<i>Motioned by</i>	<i>Catherine Attallah</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>	<i>Jomana Daher</i>
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ACOEY Committee Report**5 minutes** **John Daher**

Nothing to report.

Need to setup an account for Saint Mary's church who would like to contribute \$100/fortnight to Saint Nicholas. **Christine Eskaff to organise

<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** **Sally Daher**

Nothing to report.

Nothing coming up in April 2011. Will run as per standard weekly schedule.

<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****March 2011:**

- Not much done.

April 2011:

- Need to dedicate 3 hours prior to Pascha to clean up the house and church grounds.
Youth committee request – send out a text message reminder on the day.
- Isabel has purchased No Smoking signs for the house. No receipt – donation.
- One of our neighbours (very nice lady) has requested that we knock down a tree in the corner of our car park. Paul to take down tree in school holidays.
- Neighbour – wanting to replace fence – happy to pay half. Parish council has taken over and will follow through.

*Motioned by**Mark Semaan**Seconded by**Micha Chalhoub***Choir Committee Report****5 minutes****John Daher****Choir concert**

- **Date:** Saturday 16 April 2011.
- Blessing from Father John who has made this happen.
- Vasili (Byzantine teacher) – has been working with the choir and teaching them new chants.

General Discussion

- Start wearing the robes again.
- An extra day during the week to practice in preparation for Pascha.

*Motioned by**Catherine Attallah**Seconded by**Anthony Ishak***Communications Committee Report****5 minutes****Emails**

N/A

Website**Revamp required** – upcoming project – will meet and discuss in Communications meeting.**General Discussion**

Discussed installing the projector and screen – not much has developed since then. John has asked Kanaan who is the construction coordinator to take over. We will need to make a decision on this closer to the completion of the church. Possibly offer as a gift from the youth committee to the parish youth for Pascha?

Question from John to the Committee: Anyone interested in heading up the Communication Committee?

- **Norm** – would like to maintain the Facebook group / advertisements responsibility.
Decision - to take on this role with the support of the existing Facebook facilitator – Anthony Ishak.
- **Reminder:** need to get approval from John before any comms go out to to the committee/community.

*Motioned by**N/A**Seconded by**N/A*

**Community Service Committee Report****5 minutes****Isabel Antoun****Feeding the homeless**

- Last Wednesday, Anthony, Isabel, John and Natalie went to feed the homeless in Wynyard park with the Coptic Orthodox youth group of Saint Mary's church, Bexley.
- Great experience – fed and chatted with them.
- This has been an ongoing service with the church for 10 years. Not directly under the church, but led by the dedicated youth priest Father Mattew Attia who oversees COYA – the Coptic Orthodox Youth Association.
- May be a little dangerous and will not be opening this service up to young people under the age of 18.
- If interested, speak to Isabel – will setup up a roster for the coming months. Looking at attending the service once/month to start off with.
- One member of COYA said that it wasn't the food they appreciate. The homeless appreciate the respect and acknowledgement we offer.

Nursing home visit

- On Sunday 11 April 2011.
- Leave earlier, meet at 11.30am
- Wait for Abouna – go in together. Choir to chant there.
- Jomana and Isabel to dress up as Easter (Pascha) bunnies.
- Will be putting together gifts on Tuesday night (*Mugs* – bought from Ikea for \$1 each + *Icons* - colour scanned by ZouZou, just need to add magnetic strip).
- Spoke to someone called Steven there to organise our visit.

*Motioned by**Najwa Nahas**Seconded by**Norm Elias***Junior Youth Committee Report****5 minutes****Jomana Daher (*Ashley Saliba – absent*)****New Roles:**

- Ashley – new Jr Youth President
- Claudia – Vice as in year 12
- Jomana – Secretary
- Georgette – Treasurer

Going forward:

- **John** – ensure himself or Mark are able to come along to meetings. Shouldn't meet without the direction of an older member of the youth committee. Senior YC is always happy and willing to help.
- Come back with ideas for Junior Youth day – think outside the square and make it fun and existing.
- Suggestion – trip to the Easter Show? Host a 'Pascha' Show of our own? Fox studios family show?

*Motioned by**N/A**Seconded by**N/A*

**Religious Committee Report****5 minutes****Micha Chalhoub****Wednesday night – movie night**

- Showing: Million Dollar Baby – took other suggestions down.
- Consider showing 'The Passion of the Christ' in Holy Week.

Next event scheduled: Monastery visit

- **Date:** 7 May 2011
- Holy Cross and Pantanassa – on the same day.
- Micha to call, Father Jean to follow up if not able to.

Tea and coffee for Fellowship

- Put a roster together. To roll out from 1 May 2011.

Financial Summary

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

General Discussion

- **Icon donation:** The religious committee/the youth – saving up to donate the Saint Peter and Saint Paul – approx. \$2,500.
- **Suggestion:** Get Father Romanos to assist Father Jean – as there are many services on a Sunday. Maybe support in Holy Communion?

Father Jean – has discussed with Father Romanos and has agreed for Father Jean to be in charge and Father Romanos to assist. Will discuss with him when free to come along
- **Request:** To have the Gospel read for the congregation to follow easier.

Abouna will trial reading it and see if is better. If happy with that will keep going with that. Prefers Epistle to be chanted.
- **Pascha service** – one combined bi-lingual service. Mark to coordinate food.

*Motioned by**Norm Elias**Seconded by**Anthony Ishak***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.

Trivia night

- Have to hold it in another hall – one hall charges around \$120/night – still need to get back to the contact. Going to call tomorrow.
- Micha to speak to her old high school – Saint Euphemia College, Bankstown.
- Anthony to let everyone know.

Saint Nicholas Haffleh

- Send recommendations to Anthony by SMS.
- Have spoken to Grand Royal – have 30th July available and happy to help out.

*Motioned by**Isabel Antoun**Seconded by**Jomana Daher*

**Sports Committee Report****5 minutes****Bechara Bittar on behalf of Margaret Jabbour (absent)****No report.**

- Sub-committee will be meeting next week to discuss the future.

Summary of Bowling Night – last week,

- General thanks to everyone who attended and those who helped out.
- Good night but made \$190 profit only. Margaret still to give the money to Christine.
- John reminder: need to give any money from any event to the Treasury as soon as possible. Minimum lag time should be a couple of hours to 1 day.

A member of the Executive committee also needs to be present when counting. If not available, 2 people of the committee will suffice.

Indoor sports upcoming event

- Suggested for a Friday night.
- Bechara to discuss with the school he is at. They have facilities there.

*Motioned by**Paul Georges**Seconded by**Christine Eskaff***Sunday School Committee Report****5 minutes****Najwa Nahas**

This Sunday is the last week.

Break for 3 weeks and recommence on the Sunday 8 May – to confirm if Mother's day or not.

*Motioned by**Christine Eskaff**Seconded by**Joe Eskaff*

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

Michael Bittar – thank you very much for all your hard work and your contribution.

Has come along today to see what we are doing because are very interested in the youth and the Parish Council are happy to help you all the way through.

Would like to know that we are always one.

Father John visited over 750 families throughout the year – added the details of each family in an excel database – all will receive a letter.

A lot of work being done on the building extension – preparing a mail out. Hoping to send out soon. May need to ask for help to put them into envelopes – approx. 700/750.

4 x A4 inserts.

Anthony offered folding machine at work – provide and give in.

Demo of information pack.

Run down on construction and iconostasis status (to arrive in a year or so), etc.

Supplies / improvements suggested for our youth house:

- Coffee machine – may be a good addition to our youth house. Natalie to check with her dad for donation / discounted machine.
- Hot water urn – good for condolences, etc.

