

**Inaugural Meeting of the Committee for the  
National Centre of the Archconfraternity of Saint Philomena.**  
26<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Meeting commenced with prayers led by Father Peter Austin, for the success of the committee and for the Blessing of God and Saint Philomena.

Present: The attendees were.

Father Peter Austin  
Mr. Terry Clarke  
Mrs. Audrey Mahoney  
Mr. Terry Mahoney  
Mr. Kerry Heffernan  
Mrs. Margaret Heffernan  
Mrs. Maria Exposto  
Apology: Amelia De Melo

Congratulations were extended to Mr. Terry Clarke who was appointed Lay Delegate for Victoria. This appointment has the blessing of Monsignor Giovanni Braschi, and is for an initial period of twelve months.

The following Office bearers were elected.

Chair: Terry Clarke  
Deputy Chair: Maria (pending)  
Secretary: Terry Mahoney  
Treasurers: Kerry and Margaret Heffernan  
Spiritual Director: Father Austin, who is also the National Spiritual Director for the Archconfraternity of Saint Philomena, in Australia.

The following are the contact details of the Committee Members:

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**Membership:** Father Austin asked for representatives from the following Dioceses in Victoria.

Sandhurst: Terry Clarke  
Ballarat: Vacant  
Sale: Audrey and Terry Mahoney  
Melbourne. Maria & Amelia

The next devotional day is on Saturday 11 August 2012. The next meeting of the committee will be after the devotions on this day.

**National Shrine:** It is hoped to make the shrine in Rochester the National Shrine for Saint Philomena.

**Promotion of Saint Philomena:** It was decided that all committee members promote devotion to Saint Philomena in their own diocese. There will be an advert promoting devotion in the near future. Father Austin will also erect a new sign to promote the Rochester Shrine in the Church grounds.

Father Austin also urged us to promote the Web site ([www.philomena-australia.org](http://www.philomena-australia.org)), to all the people that we meet. Father also advised us that, with due notice, he would make himself available to us if we wanted to take small bus loads of Pilgrims to Rochester for visits to the National Centre outside of the three devotional days, which would also be a good way of promoting devotion to Saint Philomena, and advertising the National Centre.

Father Austin will also need to purchase Red Vestments to wear on the three Devotional days that are held each year. And Father will provide the annual timetable cards.

The money to pay for the advertisement, sign and the Vestments will be taken from the bank account for the National Centre of Saint Philomena in Rochester.

Father Austin gave all of the members a copy of the bank statements for this account. Father explained the debits and credits. Since 2010 significant funds have also been transferred from the bank account to Mugnano. The National Centre accepts the responsibility to help support financially the International Shrine and Mons Braschi's work in promoting devotion to St. Philomena.

**PORTFOLIOS:**

**CORDS:** Maria generously agreed to continue supplying the Saint Philomena Cords, to be distributed at the devotional days,

**LITURGY:** Maria – to appoint readers and Offertory bearers on the days.

**HOSPITALITY:** Kerry agreed to take care of opening and setting up the Church and Hall for the

devotional days.

MEET AND GREET: All committee members will be “meet and greeters” on the devotional days, and make the pilgrims feel at home, by chatting to them and showing them where to go etc.

Other portfolios will be filled as time goes on

Father Austin also gave us a copy of the Aims of the Archconfraternity and went through them with us.

Father also raised the need to have Monsignor Braschi visit our centre in Rochester. This will be possible when funding is available.

Father Austin also raised the idea of us going on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Rome and then to the International Shrine of Saint Philomena in Mugnano Italy. We all agreed that this indeed would be wonderful and a great aid to enhance our devotion to Saint Philomena. This is a long term project.

Father also encouraged all members to pray about and think of ways to promote more devotion to Saint Philomena, and to make her known Nationally. (Audrey was talking to a gentleman after Mass yesterday, and he told her that a bus load of pilgrims had made a weekend pilgrimage to Sydney to visit the Saint Philomena Shrine there, two weeks ago. We will find out who organized this trip, and suggest that they may want to come to Rochester in August. We ask you to please pray to Saint Philomena, to make this happen.).

We will also need to provide the Tea, Coffee and Milk from our own funds for the devotional days.

Father Austin closed the meeting with a prayer, after which Father and the committee had a group photo taken in front of Saint Philomena’s Shrine.

Terry Mahoney.  
Secretary