

Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish of Barala to a parish

(A report of the Western Sydney Regional Council.)

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to propose that the Provisional Parish of Barala be classified as the Parish of Barala.

Recommendation

2. The Western Sydney Regional Council recommends that the Provisional Parish of Berala become a Parish from 1 January 2020.

Details of Meeting

3. A meeting of the Western Sydney Regional Council held on 30 May 2019 considered the proposal under clause 5 of the *Parishes Ordinance 1979*.
4. The Western Sydney Regional Council certifies that all procedural requirements under clauses 4 and 6 of the *Parishes Ordinance* have been complied with, and recommends that Synod raise the status of the provisional parish to parish.

Parish Information

5. Berala is in one of the most multicultural areas of Sydney. 80% of households speak a language other than English, 67 languages are represented covering 126 nationalities. Berala is also in one of the lowest socioeconomic areas of Sydney.
6. Anglicans have been meeting in Berala since 1895. The current St James building was consecrated in 1963. St James has been a Provisional Parish since at least 1970. In 1986 the church was amalgamated into its mother parish of Lidcombe. In 2004 it again became its own Provisional Parish.
7. When in 2007 attendance dropped to the point of non-viability, the regional bishop approached the Parish of Carlingford to partner with Berala as a way of revitalising the parish. In May 2008 a memorandum of understanding commenced, with the Rev. Bruce Hall becoming the Senior Minister and members from Carlingford started attending St James. In 2009, the Rev. Andy Chung who was working with AFES at Cumberland Campus, Sydney University was appointed as an assistant minister. Cumberland College Unichurch started meeting at St James in the evening and some of the members assisted children's ministry in the morning service.
8. In 2009 an English class started. This was the beginning of a period where God brought us into contact with many new friends from the area and a significant number of Persian refugees. In 2012, with the help of a grant from the Mothers' Union, a part-time children and youth worker was appointed.
9. In 2015, the Rev. Michael Doyle was appointed as the assistant minister. In 2016 the congregation had grown considerably, the MoU with Carlingford was concluded and Rev. Doyle was appointed as the Senior Minister. Since that time the Parish has continued to grow. 2017-2018 became years of significant building projects to address a poorly built church building, the demountable hall being declared unsafe, and drainage and other issues.

Attendance and Activities

10. In 2018 the single Sunday Service had an average weekly attendance of 98 adults and 44 children and youth, compared to 55 adults and 7 children in 2014. Since 2015 we have baptised 35 new followers of Jesus.
11. Activities include: English classes; Refugee support and advocacy; Market Day to connect with the local community and provide them with affordable goods; Kids Church; Music Time as an opportunity for parents and their babies to come and have some fun, whilst leaning about Jesus; Holiday Kids Clubs; Persian Discipleship Group in the Farsi language; Mandarin Discipleship Group; Easy English Discipleship Group; Women's Discipleship Group; Retired Men's Discipleship Group; Young Adults discipleship group; International Food Night; Leadership training hub; Meeting Jesus course; Nursing Home Service.
12. In 2019 the Provisional Parish employs –
 - (a) a Rector,
 - (b) a part-time Cross Cultural Ministry worker.
 - (c) five voluntary/honorary staff members:
 - (d) a Maturity Ministry worker (1 day a week)
 - (e) two student ministers
 - (f) an administrative support worker (14 hours a week)

Summary of receipts and payments

13. A summary of the financial position over the past three years.

INCOME	2016	2017	2018	2019 Mar YTD
General Offertories	\$144,245	\$145,891	\$154,229	\$36,471
Specific Donation	\$21,126	\$63,201	\$29,392	\$14,213
Rental Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other receipts (incl. grants & interest)	\$18,013	\$18,652	\$58,757	\$4,451
Total Income	\$183,384	\$227,744	\$242,378	\$55,135
EXPENSE				
Stipends/Salaries	\$110,668	\$112,921	\$110,168	\$28,538
PCR	\$18,118	\$26,117	\$27,899	\$3,148
Property / Maintenance	\$48,850	\$103,565	\$156,677	\$26,844
Parish Admin	\$12,660	\$13,962	\$17,794	\$7,650
Ministry Expenditure	\$4,093	\$14,673	\$10,962	\$1,826
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,870
Total Expenses	\$194,390	\$271,238	\$323,500	\$69,877

Particulars of Church Property Held in Trust:

14. The main church building was completed in 1963.
15. The Current property of the Provisional Parish:
Church Building, Demountable, Rectory: 17-19 Crawford St, Berala, 2141
16. Total Assets, including land: \$6,719,098.

17. There are loans totalling \$86,962.63 to the Sydney Anglican Loans, relating to upgrading the church grounds. The repayments are fully serviced by congregational offertories, as per the arrangements with the MPC. We are on track to repay the loan 2 years early.

For and on behalf of the Western Sydney Regional Council.

IVAN LEE

Bishop of Western Sydney

30 May 2019