

St Mary's and St Paul's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting

19 8 2026

Present: Fr O'Brien, Rita Clark (Chair), Agnes O'Donnell (Secretary), Justine Docherty, Ronnie Boyd, Lisa Pearson, Helen Giusti, Elizabeth Walker

Apologies: Claire Molnar

Annual Review

- Review of last year's PPC activity presented. Copies to be made available at the back of the church and highlights shared in the parish bulletin. Includes details of activity delivered and monies raised.

Updates/Requests/Suggestions

- Church Acoustics. Have been checked and everything is working. Potential to add additional speakers to be explored.
- Streaming of masses. Sancta Familia to get back to Father O'Brien.
- Devotional Candles. Still being explored. Would need to be sympathetic to the character of the church. Potentially could be placed at the side of the altar subject to a suitable electrical source being available.
- 180th Anniversary Mass. Awaiting confirmation of a suitable date from the bishop. Still potentially the first Sunday in Advent the 29th of November.
- Defibrillator Training. Ronnie taking forward. Preference would be a Saturday morning.
- Card Payment Machine. SSVP (previously known as SVDP) potentially part of a pilot that could inform how it could be taken forward in the parish.
- Weekday coffee morning. Potential of having once a month initially to see uptake.
- Toilet. Sign to be put on the outside of the door so that it can be easily identified. Lock on toilet door can be difficult to lock for some people. Solution being sought.
- Water in Font. Will try to ensure there is always water in it.
- Parish Stall. Arrangements for ensuring it to be opened during mass to be discussed. Had to be locked due to theft.
- Hymn books. New books to be purchased as some of the existing books are beginning to look quite tatty.
- Children's order of mass. Additional copies to be placed at the back of the church.
- Hymn number board. Still being explored.

Developing the Wellspring Project within St Mary's and St Paul's

- “Making a conscious option for the poor” focus of Pope Francis and Pope Leo. As a parish this is currently being done through the re establishment of a SSVP conference in the parish, donations made through coffee mornings to the foodbank and drop in centre. Next step potentially working closely with schools to help identify and support pupils in need. Aim as a parish is to increase the support to those less fortunate in our community.
- SSVP conference. Now established in the parish. Group meets every second Tuesday at 6.30. Mini Vinnies established in ST Paul's primary with agreement from headteacher in St Mary's to establish a group there.
- Befriending Group. Disclosure Scotland checks coming through. Potential to work closely with the SSVP to extend reach. Article to be included in a future newsletter to identify parishioners in the parish who would benefit from engagement with the group.
- Youth Engagement. Caritas Volunteers, zoom meeting planned to discuss this year's Mary's Meals fundraising. Children's Liturgy, training session planned for those involved, Altar servers, another training session planned.
- A Parish Community. What does it mean. A question to be discussed further

Diary Dates

- 6th of September. SSVP Coffee Morning. Beneficiaries Foodbank and Drop in Centre.
- 4th of October. Coffee morning to mark Fairtrade Fortnight and Primary 1 welcome mass.
- 1ST/8TH November (tbc). Parish Stall and Fair Trade joint coffee morning.
- 29th of November (tbc). Parish Anniversary Coffee Morning.
- December (tbc). Santa's Sausage Sunday.

Parish Council Box

- At the back of the church for comments/suggestions. Alternatively email ppc1846@hotmail.com

Date of Next Meeting

- Wednesday 23rd of September 2026