

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

### **Minutes of Meeting**

**3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2026**

**Present:** Fr O'Brien, Rita Clark (Chair), Justine Docherty, Ronnie Boyd, Claire Molnar, Helen Giusti Agnes O'Donnell (Secretary)

**Apologies:** Lisa Pearson

#### **Updates/Requests/Suggestions**

- Mary's Meals weekend was successful. Suggestion that the ability to gift aid in the future to be considered. Ability to donate with gift aid to be checked out prior to SCIAF Sunday.
- Lighting has been improved at the car park stairs.
- Request that the ramp leading from the car park to the hall to be made more prominent. The new lighting has also improved this area.
- Card Payment Machine. Information being sought from the Diocesan Finance Officer to get a clear indication of how successful the introduction of the machine has been in other parishes.
- Afternoon Tea in aid of our local Hospices. Potential date Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. Details to be discussed at the next meeting.
- Church Acoustics. Loop system working well. Other parts of the system still to be checked.
- Streaming masses from St Marys and St Pauls. Being investigated.
- Hall Committee. Requires further discussion.
- Open Doors 2026. Applications still to be released.
- Defibrillator. Check to be carried out to ensure it is ready to use.
- Hymn Numbers. Suggestion that a board displaying hymn numbers is placed at the front of the church.
- Baby Changing Facilities. Options to be explored.
- Request for a hook to be put on the back of toilet door.

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

- Caritas Volunteers. Currently contributing well to a range of parish activities. Suggestion that next year the group take on a project, possibly the link to Mary's Meals including the fundraising for our sponsored school.
- Children's Liturgy. Review of how the group operates discussed to take account of the number of children attending , age range and the number of volunteers available.
- Parish community taking responsibility for building a community for the future. Part of future proofing is ensuring the financial viability of the parish. A key way of doing this is encouraging parishioners and regular attenders at mass to join the Gift Aid scheme. This ensures a continuity of income and maximises the value of the income through additional monies received from Gift aid, currently at 25p in every pound.
- Befriending Group. Disclosure Scotland check to be undertaken for those who have volunteered as befrienders. Initial names that have been identified as benefiting from contact from the Group to be contacted. Anyone interested in becoming a befriender or

know of someone who would benefit from a visit from the group to contact Fr. O'Brien or Justine on 07951397616.

- SVDP. Visit from Diocesan Chair in April.
- Easter Sausage Sunday. Tasks allocated across the group.

#### **Diary Dates**

- 8<sup>th</sup> of March. Altar Servers' Trip
- 29<sup>th</sup> of March. Easter Sausage Sunday (Palm Sunday).

#### **Parish Council Box**

- At the back of the church for comments/suggestions. Alternatively email [ppc1846@hotmail.com](mailto:ppc1846@hotmail.com)

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2026

#### *St Mary's and St Paul's Mission Statement*

*Our parish of St Mary's and St Paul's Hamilton is a community of faith where priest and people seek to work together to build up a life-giving Christian community that is characterised by prayer, hospitality and mission.*

*In the spirit of Wellspring we seek to be a welcoming, nurturing, inclusive and caring parish that gathers together at the Eucharist to celebrate Christ's presence among us and, with his help and strength, to continue in loving and compassionate service to others, especially those most in need.*