

St Mary's and St Paul's Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting

19th of November 2025

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

Apologies: Claire Molnar, Lisa Pearson

Updates/Requests

- Details of road closures around St Mary's and St Paul's from 26th November to 5th of December available from South Lanarkshire Council website.
- Father O'Brien to discuss with electrician improving the lighting at the bottom of the car park stairs.
- Introduction of card machine in the parish to be discussed fully at the January meeting.
- Usage of the QR code for donations to the parish to be reviewed.
- Continuing our support for Mary's Meals representatives will be invited to the parish in February.
- Defibrillator training on the 4th of October completed.
- A suggestion has been put forward for evening adoration at key points throughout the year.
- Census at masses in the last week in October recorded an attendance of approximately 650 over the 3 masses. Compares well with the previous year.
- Suggestion that Orders of Service from funerals be pinned up on the noticeboard so that parishioners could more easily identify those buried from the Church. It was felt by Father and the group that families of the deceased would need to agree before this happened as it could be upsetting for the families involved.

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

- Befriending Group. Initial training session has been held. Next meeting will take place after Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) checks have been completed. Additional befrienders would be made welcome. If interested in becoming a befriender or if you know of anyone who would benefit from a visit from the group, contact Fr. O'Brien or Justine on 07951397616.
- Youth Group. Meeting of Young adults and Caritas Volunteers have met. Group is happy to help at parish coffee mornings and are active with the Children's Liturgy. Some members of the Group would like to develop a project for the group to get involved in, ideas being discussed.
- Altar Servers. Initial meeting held on the 1st of November. Christmas/New Year get together for the group is being planned.
- Ronnie attended the Diocesan conference "Into the Margins". Conference focussed on identifying issues around poverty in the Lanarkshire and possible responses from parishes. St Vincent De Paul was identified as a movement within the Church that already is involved in the issues raised. Fr. O'Brien will follow up on an approach already made regarding our St Vincent De Paul

Jubilee Year 2025

- Donations made through the November lists will be donated to the Friends of the Holy Land.

Diary Dates

- Santa's Sausage Sunday now Sunday the 14th of December after the 9am and 10.30am masses.

Parish Council Box

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

Date of Next Meeting

- Wednesday 14th of January at 7pm. Potential agenda items: Card Machine, Mary's Meals, Youth Activity and Open Doors 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.