

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 23 September 2026

Present: R. Clark, J. Docherty, H. Giusti, R. Boyd, L. Walker, Fr O'Brien

Apologies: L. Pearson, C. Milner, A. O'Donnell

1. St Vincent de Paul Society (SSVP) Report

R. Boyd provided an update on the recently re-established SSVP Conference. The group currently has 12 members and has made a positive start, with its first coffee morning raising £600. The proceeds were divided equally between Hamilton Foodbank and the Churches Drop-In Centre.

It was suggested that closer collaboration between SSVP Conference and Parish Befriending Group would be beneficial, particularly in supporting parishioners through home and care home visits.

2. Church Sound System

Concerns continue to be raised regarding difficulties experienced by parishioners in hearing during Mass. Possible issues with the church sound system will continue to be investigated.

3. Electronic Votive Candles

The possibility of installing votive candles in the church remains under consideration. In light of potential fire safety concerns, electronic candles are being explored as the preferred option.

It was agreed that it would be appropriate to have these in place for the parish's 180th anniversary celebrations in late November.

4. Defibrillator Training

Defibrillator training has been arranged for Saturday, 31 October, from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. Details will be advertised in the parish bulletin over the coming weeks.

5. Caritas Group Report

A written report from C. Milner regarding the Caritas Group was received and noted.

The group agreed that its principal focus for the coming year will be raising sufficient funds to provide meals for a primary school in Malawi for a further year. Fundraising efforts will include a parish collection, a coffee morning, and additional activities organised by the Caritas Group.

The group has also established contact with the local Mary's Meals coordinator, and the possibility of some members becoming Young Ambassadors was discussed.

6. Parish 180th Anniversary Celebration

It was confirmed that Bishop Toal will celebrate the 10.30 am Mass on the First Sunday of Advent to mark the 180th anniversary of the parish. A coffee morning in the parish hall will follow the Mass.

7. Open Doors Event 2027

Members who attended the Open Doors event at the Old Parish Church reported that they had gained useful ideas for the parish's participation in September 2027.

It was considered likely that a dedicated planning group would be required for this event, with formation of the group anticipated early in the New Year.

8. Parish Facilities

A discussion took place regarding ongoing issues with the toilet door lock and the need for improved signage for parishioners and visitors.

9. Parish Coffee Morning

A parish coffee morning will be held on Sunday, 4 October, and will be organised by the Fairtrade Group. This coincides with the P1 Welcome Mass for pupils from both parish primary schools.

10. Church Entrance Handrail

Several parishioners have raised concerns regarding the lack of a handrail at the front entrance of the church. It was noted that some people find the steps difficult to navigate without additional support.

11. Diocesan Wellspring Meeting

The Diocesan Wellspring Meeting, scheduled for Monday, 5 October, at Our Lady and St Anne's, will be promoted through the parish bulletin.

12. Livestreaming of Masses

The possibility of livestreaming parish Masses was discussed.

J. Docherty agreed to contact Sancta Familia Parish to seek advice and guidance based on their experience of providing this service.

13. Community-Building Events

The Council discussed possible initiatives to strengthen parish community life. Suggestions included organising a Family Quiz Afternoon and an Ethnic Food Evening as opportunities for parishioners to gather socially and foster greater community engagement.

Meeting concluded with prayer.