

**Meeting:** St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council  
**Date:** Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
**Location:** St. Joseph's Church Hall

**Present:** Eileen Cunningham (EC) Amélie Davidson (AD) *Vice-Chair*  
Sally Hamill (SH) Janice Lennon (JL)  
Hugh Matthews (HM) Margaret McGrath (MM) *Chair*  
Fr Stephen McGrattan (SM) *Parish Priest* George McIntyre (GM) *Secretary*  
Judith Wilson (JW)

**Apologies:** Sr Mary Mabel Chukwu (MC), Desmond Cunningham (DC), Laura Hand (LH),  
Ruairidh Heron (RH), Sr Mary Rose Maduka (MRM), Sr Juliet Obiorah (JO), Paul  
Nicholson (PN), Fr Kevin Rennie (KR) *Assistant Priest.*

Item	Notes	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome, Opening Prayer and Sederunt:</b></p> <p>MM welcomed everyone and as PPC Chair formally opened the meeting.  HM read an extract from a book entitled "Calls from the Message of Fátima" written by Sister Lucia to mark today's Feast of Our Lady of Fátima and provided the opening prayer.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising:</b></p> <p>The previous minutes were proposed by JL and seconded by HM.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Pilgrimage update:</b></p> <p>Previous action: A meeting prior to the pilgrimage will be organised.  An information evening for the pilgrims is planned for Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 5 pm in the church hall and will include a sample of the local cuisine as scene setter. Also, informal Spanish classes have been offered to the group and this was welcomed by the Council. Timings will be announced later.</p> <p>Previous action: PN volunteered to pull a local walking plan together (from March to September 2024) to help build up fitness before travelling. This will not be exclusive to the pilgrims but will also be open to others wishing to join the local walking activities.</p> <p>Update: PN provided a pre-meeting update. Due to the weather being unfavourable in March and April, it was decided to wait until this had improved sufficiently before starting things going. Recent personal circumstances have also impacted the start-up but the intention is still to proceed as soon as possible but will need to be targeted more for the preparation of the pilgrims for early September 2024. Action carried forward.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>PN to prepare local walking plan and include in Newsletter</p>

4.	<p><b>Ministries:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Retreat for Eucharistic Ministers- SM confirmed that he intends to invite the Eucharistic Ministers and Readers to a morning retreat in autumn 2024 for reflection on the ministry. Action carried forward;</li> <li>2. Ministry guide publication status- The guide with the description of the various ministries is now ready and will be provided to attendees at the Lenten retreat. Action carried forward;</li> <li>3. Additional assistance for mini-bus driver- Due to multiple duties at Masses, there is a requirement for further assistance when collecting parishioners (up to 10) attending Mass. MM agreed to advertise for volunteers in the forthcoming Newsletter. Volunteers will also need to be taken through the safeguarding requirements.</li> </ol>	<p><i>SM to progress</i></p> <p><i>SM to organise</i></p> <p><i>Completed</i></p>
5.	<p><b>Fabric:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Electrical work update- A recent electrical inspection around the estate identified some areas that required further attention and remedial action has now been completed. The lighting in the main hall area has been completed and it was agreed that it is a big improvement. The remaining areas (stage, bar, kitchen and green room) will be progressed later this year. The proceeds from the Community Café and other fundraising from hall activities has paid for this work;</li> <li>2. Pointing of Church- Repointing and cleaning of stonework on the façade of the church was scheduled to take place between April and July 2024 but due to crumbling of the house wall, the work had to be reprioritised to deal with this first. The cost of the whole activity on a yearly basis is quite expensive and although some funding for this has been kindly provided from the legacy of a recently deceased parishioner, the Building Fund will now be very important to maintain this activity;</li> <li>3. Hall renovations- Re-roofing is the main task and will need a fund-raising project. As the hall is used by the wider community, it may be possible to apply for some external funding and this will be explored to have the necessary funds for the work anticipated in 2025/2026;</li> <li>4. Fascia board around the hall- A parishioner reported that the fascia around the hall may need repaired. An inspection of the fascia below the slates around the perimeter of the hall is required. It may require replacing the old fascia with new PVC panels. Any remedial work may be best included as part of the hall roof work. Action carried forward;</li> <li>5. Handrail outside the hall- Previous action: A parishioner reported that the handrail appears to be a bit loose in places and needs to be checked if it just needs fittings re-tightened or something replaced instead. Update: The necessary repairs have been completed by a parishioner and the handrail is now intact;</li> <li>6. Display board with past priests- A contractor has been identified and now just needs a sign-writer. The potential location is above the Holy Water font and donation</li> </ol>	<p><i>SM to consult local MSP</i></p> <p><i>SM to consult contractors</i></p> <p><i>Completed</i></p> <p><i>SM/KR to progress</i></p>

	<p>boxes in the porch. Action carried forward;</p> <p>7. Cupboards in Green Room (hall)- MM confirmed that new cupboard units for the Green Room just need to be purchased with labour being provided free;</p> <p>8. Church doors- SM commented that the main doors are showing signs of wear and will need painted soon;</p> <p>9. Carpet at front of church- JL commented that the carpet just in front of the altar is showing signs of wear and tear. Professional cleaning or replacement was discussed but due to other projects pending no action was determined as yet.</p>	MM to consult contractor
6.	<p><b>Finance:</b></p> <p>Previous action: SM provided a preview of the parish accounts and confirmed that these would be published for the weekend (27<sup>th</sup> January 2024).</p> <p>SM commented that a hall roof fund will need to be initiated due to the pending and necessary repairs required as stated earlier.</p>	Completed
7.	<p><b>Social Events:</b></p> <p>1. Mini-bus trips (2024 plan): The next trips planned are to St. Andrews on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and Inverary on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024. There have been some difficulties in locating suitable lunch venues to accommodate the numbers travelling and other options are being explored.</p> <p>SM commented that SVDP has currently been subsidising the mini-bus trips to date but that as this funding is running out, the costs will soon need to be passed to the participants. Some options were discussed including visiting locations closer to home, limiting the numbers to one instead of two mini-buses or seeking external funding. Extra funding may be available via local government grants and this is to be explored with the local MP on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024;</p> <p>2. Photographs from various trips- PN proposed that photographs taken during the 2023 trips could be displayed at a Community Café. It was agreed that a slideshow could be presented starting from Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 just prior to the new programme starting in March;</p> <p>3. KR commented at the previous meeting that a new Parish web site was being developed and that a section that would allow an archive of events for future trips through the year to be added. This is now available;</p> <p>4. Fun Day: This is planned for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and a request for volunteers will be published in the newsletter in June;</p> <p>5. Feast of Saint Theresa of Avila (Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024)- Saint Joseph's will be hosting members of the Royal Scots College to celebrate this feast day with a Mass open to the public at 12.30 pm followed by a reception for the group in the hall afterwards;</p>	<p>SM to attend meeting with local MSP and report back</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>MM to add request to newsletter</p>

	<p>6. Saint Patrick's Day (2025)- The planning for this celebration to be held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 will begin after Christmas but due to availability issues last time, Sean Kelly has been booked to provide the entertainment.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Periodic Review of Parish Council membership:</b></p> <p>SM previously commented that the membership of the Parish Council was designed to be around 12 individuals at any one time and then have a periodic refresh with three members stepping down where appropriate to allow new members to join without impacting the balance of the group. All the meeting attendees were happy to continue in role. GM commented that it was important that we enable representation from the diverse community within the Parish. However, a further check is required to determine that there is a willingness for others to serve on the Council. Action carried forward;</p> <p>Update: SM commented that the intention was to dissolve the current group after the next (August 2024) Parish Pastoral Council meeting to allow the opportunity for the selection of new representatives of the Parish. Current members will be able to propose new members but can also re-apply. The Parish Council Core Group will be tasked with choosing the new group representative of the Parish.</p>	<p><i>SM to assess interest via a newsletter item</i></p>
9.	<p><b>Remembrance Day banners:</b></p> <p>HM previously suggested that there was the potential for a Saint Joseph's flag to be presented with the other flags during the Remembrance Day Masses or at other appropriate events. MM checked with the Guides/Scouts regarding where they source their flags but this was a bit expensive. A local artist who has previously worked with the Parish is to be approached for further ideas.</p>	<p><i>MM to progress</i></p>
10.	<p><b>Marriage and Family:</b></p> <p>The Scottish Bishops recently provided a pastoral letter in response to the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill to emphasise the importance of all aspects of life as well as promoting family life. They are looking to hold events with prepared resources to inform politicians and the public of the dangers of introducing such legislation. SM to contact the Galloway Diocese representative (HR) regarding a Deanery meeting.</p>	<p><i>SM to contact Diocese representative</i></p>
11.	<p><b>Previous Open Actions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It was previously agreed that a Papal Blessing would be suitable way to commemorate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The original aim was to achieve this by the end of the anniversary year but it is more appropriate now to coincide it with the formal dedication of the Church. Following the Ordination of the new Bishop, this will be actioned when a date for the dedication is arranged. Action carried forward;</li> <li>2. Car park signage- Appropriate signage relating to car park usage is currently being reviewed. Action carried forward;</li> </ol>	<p><i>SM to progress</i></p> <p><i>SM, KR to contact DGr</i></p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Gritting facility- The gritting equipment (spreader) is now available. MM contacted East Ayrshire Council to supply grit for the winter months however the current supply is solidified and will need to be removed before being able to be replenished with fresh material. Action carried forward;</li> <li>4. Disability Forum- SM informed the Council that under the Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches, there was an ongoing forum that was in place to consider and account for disabilities such as hearing, autism and wheelchair access. He requested that a member of the Council or the wider Parish attends the forum as our representative and bring back ideas to be considered. He will provide further information to be circulated to the Council. Action carried forward.</li> </ol>	<p><i>KR to progress</i></p> <p><i>SM to provide further info to GM for circulation to PPC</i></p>
12.	<p><b>AOCB:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Easter Egg Appeal- AD updated the council that over 100 eggs were donated from the Parish much to the delight of Saint Joseph’s Academy staff/pupils to supply to disadvantaged families. This was very well received and much appreciated;</li> <li>2. Organ Recital Series (2024)- The musical programme for the year has been published with the next organ recital to be performed by Alessandro Bianchi on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024 on his third visit. SM also confirmed that best wishes had been sent to Ciaran Walker who impressed us at an earlier recital for his final music degree recital tomorrow (14<sup>th</sup> May 2024) in Edinburgh;</li> <li>3. Porch repairs- A parishioner reported leaking in the porch in the corner at the main door potentially from water ingress from the downpipe fixings;</li> <li>4. Porch glass doors- A parishioner proposed that both sets of glass doors should have “Push/Pull” signs applied to prevent any injuries/accidents.</li> </ol>	
	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting:</b></p> <p>Next meeting: Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 6:30 pm in St. Joseph’s Church Hall.</p> <p>Opening prayer at next meeting: AD</p>	<p><i>AD to prepare and read out opening prayer at next meeting</i></p>