

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH COMMUNITY

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Jim Hayes

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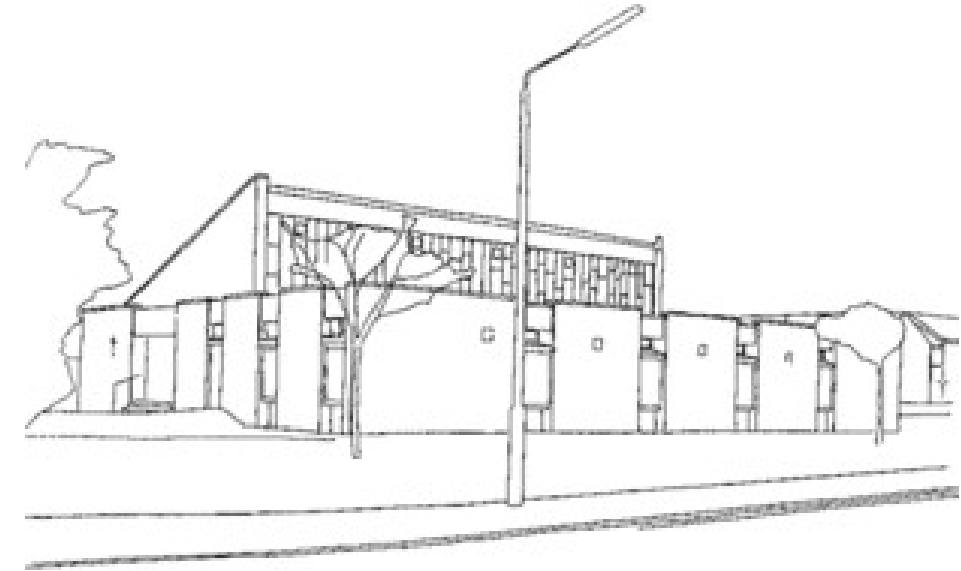
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A Parish of the RC Diocese of Galloway. Charity Number: SC 010576

PASTORAL ASSISTANTS:

Sr. Mary Rose Confidence Maduka IHM, Sr. Mary Mabel Chukwu IHM & Sr. Marilyn Juliet Obiorah IHM

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

3rd April 2025



MINUTES

Welcome and opening prayer – Fr Jim (said by all).

Attendees: Susan Faulds; Michael J Thomson; Maureen Bradley; Anne Gillion; Margaret Merrick; Stephen Duff; Larry Tommie and Maureen Walsh.

Minutes of previous meeting (6th Feb 2025).

Mrs Maureen Walsh agreed to be Minute Secretary for tonight's meeting.

Matters arising and updates.

- 1 The Bishop's pastoral visit took place. The Bishop said mass at St. Matthew's and at Mount Carmel. He also Confirmed the children in St Matthew's Church, in the afternoon. The Bishop apologised that perhaps we were forgotten a bit at the time of Fr Martin's death. This had also been mentioned to Fr Jim by some parishioners.
- 2 Father Martin's first anniversary will be on Thursday 10.04.2025. Mass will be said here at 7pm, on that day. The 10am Mass will take place, as usual, on that date. There will also be an anniversary Mass in Troon at 7pm. Father Martin – memorial ideas: a) Dedicate a tree at Dean Park? Some discussion around the maintenance of a tree at this proposed site and the lack of upkeep of the board with names attached. Fr Jim suggested that, rather than having a sapling planted, we invest in a more mature tree. Additional discussion around where this should be planted-here outside the Church was favoured. b) We will continue to support the Ecuador Trust. October Mission Month will now be devoted to Ecuador Fundraising rather than talks.
- 3 Jubilee Year, 2025. Pilgrims of Hope. Lumen Gentium (by our Deanery) took place on Saturday 29th March. Maureen Bradley and Tricia Gilhooley presented in St Joseph's Church. Their presentation was so well received by the Deanery that Fr Jim has asked them to present it at our next Parish Council meeting. Michael suggested that similar presentations could be done throughout the year. Fr Jim offered sincere thanks to Maureen and Tricia.
- 4 Safeguarding – Marjerie McInnes has been organising those who need to have a PVG. She will have to visit all the groups who use the hall. Fr Jim offered thanks to Marjorie for all her hard work.
- 5 IHM Sisters – Sr Aran Anne came from Rome to pay a pastoral visit to the Sisters. Unfortunately, the sisters have recently been troubled by vandalism and anti-social behaviour at Mount Carmel. Windows have been broken and youngsters have damaged plants in their garden. This has been a traumatic time for the nuns. The police have advised them and security cameras have been upgraded, along with a much higher fence. The Sisters report feeling more secure following these measures.
- 6 Lent and Easter planning:
Wednesday Mass at 7pm in OLMC
Holy Thursday (17th April) in St Matthew's at 7pm
Good Friday (18th April) in St Matthew's at 3pm (OLMC at 5pm)
Holy Saturday (19th April) MP in St Matthew's at 10am
Easter Vigil (19th April) in St Matthew's at 9pm
Easter Sunday (20th April) in St Matthew's at 9.30am and in OLMC at 11.30am

7 RCIA – receptions at 11.30am Easter Day Mass in OLMC (20th April)

8 RCIC 2024-2025 (10 families in all)

First Communion Days: Sundays in June (not 22nd June) at 9.30am Masses

The age of Confirmation consultation will continue and then the Bishop will consult the PPCs.

The order should be: Baptism, then Confirmation, then Confession, then Eucharist.

Maureen B asked about Confession in P5 because children are more mature and can understand more fully.

- 9 Finance and Fabric Committee (FFC). A meeting has been called to get things up and running. Chris Brown has taken over as Parish Accountant from John McLean. Fr Jim is very grateful to Chris for offering to do this and both Chris and Fr Jim have been working with Louise from the Diocese to undertake what needs to be done.
- 10 Parish Groups roundup. The work of the following groups is ongoing: Children's Liturgy; Foodbank; Community Meal; Music Ministry; Hospitality (Sunday Teas etc.); Church cleaning; Spirituality Groups; Church Flowers. Fr Jim expressed his gratitude to all who give their time and efforts to these groups.
- 11 Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches. Our parish will be hosting at 8.30am on Easter Sunday, when members from other churches will join us after the 7.30am service in Kay Park led by Fr Jim to enjoy a breakfast prepared by Margaret, Anne and their team of volunteers.
- 12 Fr Jim mentioned that on the 4th Sunday of Lent the second collection would be given to SCIAF. It was suggested that the Community Box would not be displayed that day.
- 13 The HT of St Andrew's Primary School is now on maternity leave. She has been replaced (on a temporary basis) by a DHT from Lainshaw Primary in Stewarton. The present DHT of St Andrew's has been appointed as Faith Leader of the school during this time. The school recently produced a very successful Easter Show. The group offered congratulations to all children and staff involved.
- 14 Dates for future meetings:
Thursday 5th June
Thursday 11th September
Thursday 13th November
Thursday 5th February 2026.

All parishioners are welcome and encouraged to attend any or all of our meetings. We meet at 7pm till no later than 9pm.

Fr Jim thanked all attendees, finishing the meeting with an invocation and a blessing.