

Meeting: St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council
Date: Monday, 2nd June 2025
Location: St. Joseph's Church Hall

Present: Desmond Cunningham (DC) Eileen Cunningham (EC)
 Sally Hamill (SH) Laura Hand (LH)
 Janice Lennon (JL) Margaret McGrath (MM)
 Fr Stephen McGrattan (SM) *Parish Priest/Chair*
 George McIntyre (GM) *Secretary* Paul Nicholson (PN)
 Sr Marilyn Juliet Obiorah (JO) Fr Kevin Rennie (KR) *Assistant Priest*
 Judith Wilson (JW)

Apologies: Sr Mary Mabel Chukwu (MC), Amélie Davidson (AD), Ruairidh Heron (RH),
 Sr Mary Rose Maduka (MRM), Hugh Matthews (HM).

Item	Notes	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, Opening Prayer and Sederunt:</p> <p>SM welcomed everyone and formally opened the meeting. The Jubilee prayer was used for our opening prayer for the third Parish Pastoral Council in the Jubilee Year.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising:</p> <p>The previous minutes were proposed by SH and seconded by JL.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
3.	<p>Finance:</p> <p>SM confirmed that there was some good news to report and this followed on from what had been summarised in the weekend newsletter. Following the February appeal to increase the Sunday collections, there had been a very generous increase in the donations (so far an additional £589.84 per week since the appeal of 2nd February, annual equivalent of £30,671.84) that will meet the ongoing needs for the upkeep of the church estate and management of the parish. The plan will be to do only essential maintenance this year and then return to the stonework as sufficient funds build up.</p>	
4.	<p>Fabric:</p> <p>1. Hall renovations (Roof)- Previous action: The roof of the hall needs replaced and is the main task requiring fund-raising projects and grant funding. The fascia boards around the hall will also need to be repaired. An inspection of the fascia below the slates around the perimeter of the hall is required. It will require replacing the old fascia with new PVC panels. Replacement windows for the sides of the hall and kitchen are required.</p> <p>SM confirmed that fund raising projects will begin with a target of £60,000 and all the building fund collections will be directed to the hall renovation project. The Finance Committee has submitted a grant submission to the Council (East Ayrshire Renewable Energy Fund) with the closing date for submission being 31st May 2025.</p>	

<p>An additional two further applications for funding will be prepared and submitted during the year. Action carried forward;</p> <p>2. Hall renovations (cooker/extraction hood)- The cooker urgently requires replacement and an extraction hood for the fumes/gases due to the scale of cooking undertaken for the parish and other events. SM confirmed that the purchase the cooker and extraction hood can progress now.</p> <p>Previous action: PN suggested that it would be beneficial to provide some visibility on the progress of the projects in a similar way to the organ restoration project and will provide photographs as it progresses;</p> <p>3. Hall renovations (Cupboards in Green Room)- MM previously confirmed that new cupboard units for the Green Room just need to be purchased when hall funds accumulate with labour being provided free. Action update: SM confirmed that the purchase of the units can progress now. Action carried forward;</p> <p>4. Hall renovations (fund raising activities)- A number of fund raising activities have been proposed including the following: - Teenager car wash - Ladies night - Afternoon tea - Abba tribute night - Local history exhibition - Sale of branded Parish goods in the shop - Treasure hunt - Car boot sale - Bingo night - 300 Club</p> <p>It was agreed by the meeting attendees that the car wash, ladies night and afternoon tea should be progressed first. PN agreed to consult the organisers for the three activities and MM and LH agreed to supervise the car wash. LH also offered to provide the cleaning materials for the car wash;</p> <p>5. Display board with past priests- The potential location is in the porch. Action update: SM confirmed that the board is currently with the sign writer and should be available soon. Action carried forward;</p> <p>6. Altar carpet- An individual generously donated the funds for this to be completed in time and the carpet was installed in time for the Dedication ceremony. EC commented that candle wax had stained the carpet already. SM confirmed that the carpet was able to be cleaned and that further instructions have and will be provided to ensure the candles are held upright and not at an angle going forward;</p> <p>7. Parish house- SM previously reported that some dampness had been observed on the ground floor of the Parish house most likely caused by a lack of ventilation and</p>	<p><i>PN to record progress and communicate via a storyboard</i></p> <p><i>MM to consult contractor</i></p> <p><i>PN to consult organisers of the three activities</i></p> <p><i>MM and LH to supervise the car wash</i></p> <p><i>SM/KR to progress/provide further update</i></p>
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	<p>due to the age of the building the damp proof course is inefficient. Action update: SM reported that work on the dampness had been done with the ventilation improved. There may be further work required on the ground floor but will wait and see how this initial repair progresses.</p>	<p><i>SM to report back on progress as required</i></p>
5.	<p>Social Events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional mini-bus drivers (for collection and return of housebound for Sunday Mass): KR reported that one additional driver has been recruited but more are required. Action update: KR confirmed that currently there are five drivers and if any further interest is shown then training will be provided. However, there is some uncertainty on their availability for covering Sundays. PN offered to check on the Sunday availability; 2. Family fun day- This will be held on Sunday 10th August 2025; 3. Hallowe'en Quiz- This is planned for Friday 31st October 2025; 4. Saint Andrew's Night- The date has still to be confirmed but is proposed for Friday 28th November 2025. Further details will follow once the entertainer has been confirmed. 	<p><i>KR to progress- Action Closed</i></p> <p><i>PN to confirm</i></p> <p><i>MM to contact the quiz master</i></p> <p><i>EC to contact Sean Kelly</i></p>
6.	<p>Deanery Pastoral Council update:</p> <p>SM reported that the Lumen Gentium ("Christ the Light of the Nations: the Mystery of the Church") presentation on Saturday 29th March 2025 was well executed and there had been a reasonable attendance at the session. The next East Ayrshire Deanery Pastoral Council meeting is planned for September 2025.</p>	
7.	<p>Parish Pilgrimages:</p> <p>SM confirmed that there are 24 pilgrims signed up for the pilgrimage to Oban and Iona from the 18th to 20th September 2025 and can go ahead as planned.</p> <p>From an international perspective, SM confirmed that the possibility of arranging a visit to the Royal Scots College at Salamanca in 2026 with possible dates being Monday 28th September to Sunday 4th October 2026. This will be added to the newsletter as a Save the Date with further details to be provided.</p>	<p><i>SM to add a Save the Date item in the newsletter and to provide further details when available</i></p>
8.	<p>Dedication of the Church:</p> <p>The Parish Pastoral Council expressed their appreciation for the music and liturgies at the Easter and Dedication Masses.</p> <p>The previous actions concerning the Dedication of the Church have been completed or closed, namely:</p>	

	<p>SM confirmed that Bishop Frank will preside over the Mass of Dedication of St. Joseph's Church and Altar at the 11 am Mass on Sunday 18th May 2025. Action completed.</p> <p>The potential for a small reception in the hall after the Mass was discussed and this was agreed. HM suggested that the slideshow used for the 175th anniversary could be displayed in the hall. PN asked about a wider involvement and if this should include representation from the local schools (Saint Andrew's and Saint Joseph's). SM agreed and that invitations could also be extended to local politicians (MP, SMP and Council officials) as was done for the 175th anniversary. Actions closed/ completed.</p> <p>It was previously agreed that a Papal Blessing would be suitable way to commemorate the 175th anniversary. Action update: The Papal blessing from the late Pope Francis was presented at the Mass of Dedication on Sunday 18th May 2025. Action completed.</p>	<p>SM/MRM to review options- Completed</p> <p>PN to prepare slideshow-Closed</p> <p>SM to progress - Completed</p> <p>SM to progress- Completed</p>
9.	<p>Easter Celebrations:</p> <p>Previous action: SM commented that there are 8 or 9 people joining the Church during this period and that a small celebration could be arranged in the hall to mark the occasion immediately after the Easter Vigil. This was agreed but it was also recognised that as it will be quite late in the evening that this would only be for a short period. Action completed.</p>	<p>MM to organise hall reception- Action completed</p>
10.	<p>Youth and Young Adults:</p> <p>KR reported that both groups were going well with regular meetings ongoing.</p> <p>SM conveyed a question from Bishop Frank regarding what the age for Confirmation should be. The consensus at the meeting was P4 was too early and that P7 was a better time to allow a more meaningful understanding of what the Sacrament was.</p>	
11.	<p>Papal Nuncio visit:</p> <p>The Papal Nuncio (Papal ambassador for Great Britain) is visiting the Galloway Diocese from 24th to 27th June 2025. There are two public events planned with a mass at the Cathedral on Wednesday 25th June 2025 and a Solemn Evening Prayer at Saint Joseph's Church on Thursday 26th June 2025 at 7pm. The Parish Pastoral Council and Deanery Pastoral Council members in the Diocese will be invited to a small gathering prior to the Thursday Prayer service.</p>	<p>MM to organise a small reception</p>
12.	<p>Previous Open Actions:</p> <p>Periodic Review of Parish Council membership: 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. The meeting attendees provided their wishes to continue or not with some confirming they would be willing to step down to allow new members to join.</p>	

	<p>SM confirmed that nominations are open until 22nd June 2025 as per the recent newsletter item and thanked everyone in the Council for all their contributions. Action update: Nominations are open until 22nd June 2025.</p>	<p><i>SM to assess interest via a newsletter item in May 2025-Initial action Completed</i></p>
13.	<p>AOCB:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pantomime script- HM informed the meeting that he was in possession of an old pantomime script (based on Babes in the Wood) that could be adapted and performed in the hall as part of the ongoing fund-raising activities Further discussion on the possibility of staging this is ongoing; 2. Mobile phones in Mass- SM commented that there seems to be the sound of mobile phones going off at most masses. A request to switch off mobiles going in to Mass will be added to the newsletter. Action update: A request was added to the newsletter but mobile phones are still ringing during the Masses. SM commented that it will be necessary to make a request prior to the start of Mass to ask for mobiles to be switched to silent; 3. A proposal from a parishioner to add another Mass to the weekend schedule which may appeal to those who work on Sundays at the times when Mass is presently celebrated was discussed. The request was for a “low Mass”, spoken and with lower level of solemnity. In response, because the parish Mass schedule is part of a deanery schedule to facilitate cover for neighbouring parishes when priests are on leave or otherwise absent, there is not a sustainable availability of clergy to provide an additional earlier morning Mass on a Sunday. There is already the option of the 9.30 am Masses in St. Matthew’s, Kilmarnock and St. Paul’s, Hurlford, as well as a Sunday evening Mass (as part of the youth ministry) in St. Joseph’s on the first and third Sundays of the month which is open to anyone who wishes to attend. There is also a weekly 6 pm Sunday Mass in Saint Quivox’ church, Prestwick; 4. Cameras- JW asked about the use of the camera at Mass and requested that this could be less intrusive during Communion. MM and KR confirmed that static shots can be used during Communion so as not to show faces of the congregation. SM confirmed that the Saturday Vigil is not live-streamed. There will be a review to meet any concerns; 5. Diocesan Student for the Priesthood- A student will be visiting Saint Joseph’s from the 18th July to 3rd August 2025. 	<p><i>SM to add request to newsletter- Action Completed</i></p> <p><i>MM/KR to review</i></p>
	<p>Date and time of next meeting:</p> <p>Next meeting: Monday, 28th July 2025 at 6:30 pm in St. Joseph’s Church Hall.</p> <p>Opening prayer at next meeting: Jubilee Prayer will be read out together at each of the 2025 meetings.</p>	<p><i>All</i></p>