

Meeting: St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council
Date: Monday, 3rd November 2025
Location: St. Joseph's Church Hall

Present:

Maureen Andrew (MA)	Eileen Cunningham (EC)
Sally Hamill (SH) <i>Vice Chair</i>	Laura Hand (LH)
Patrik Janok (PJ)	Janice Lennon (JL)
Margaret McGrath (MM)	Fr Stephen McGrattan (SM) <i>Parish Priest</i>
George McIntyre (GM) <i>Secretary</i>	Paul Nicholson (PN) <i>Chair</i>
Fr Kevin Rennie (KR) <i>Assistant Priest</i>	Mary Walker (MW)
Judith Wilson (JW)	

Apologies: Sr Mary Mabel Chukwu (MC), Sr Mary Rose Maduka (MRM),
 Hugh Matthews (HM), Sr Marilyn Juliet Obiorah (JO), Lea-Anne Wilson (LW).

Item	Notes	Action
1.	Welcome, Opening Prayer and Sederunt: PN welcomed everyone and formally opened the meeting. The Jubilee prayer was used for the opening prayer for the fifth Parish Pastoral Council in the Jubilee Year.	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising: The previous minutes were proposed by SH and seconded by JL. There were no matters arising.	
3.	Change of Clergy provision in Kilmarnock: SM updated the Council to confirm that Fr. Jim Hayes will be leaving Kilmarnock on the 30 th November 2025 to take up an appointment as Parish Priest of Saint Winin's, Kilwinning. At the same time, SM and KR will become the Parish Priest and Assistant Priest, respectively, to all three Kilmarnock parishes. This change has been initiated from the Bishop's overview of the Diocese. The Bishop will be visiting Saint Joseph's on the weekend of the 7 th December and then both Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Matthew's on the weekend of the 14 th December 2025. In addition to the imminent changes above, next summer, Fr. Philip Kitchen will also be retiring from the Cumnock cluster of parishes. SM invited us to call on and be open to the Holy Spirit to guide us during these changes to provide the best pastoral care to the people of Kilmarnock.	
4.	Finance: SM reported that the level of donations is currently in a healthy state in response to the appeal earlier in the year. The hall roof has now been replaced with the windows replacement and new lighting to be started soon. SM wished to thank the parish for their support and to the Finance Committee for working hard to identify any potential grant funding.	

5.	Fabric: Hall renovations (Roof)- Previous action: The roof of the hall needs replaced and is the main task requiring fund-raising projects and grant funding. Replacement windows for the sides of the hall and kitchen are required. Action update: SM confirmed that the hall roof work had been completed. The windows replacement and new lighting work will be started soon. As reported previously in the newsletter and at Mass, the grant funding of £50,000 was approved. SM expressed his gratitude to the Finance Committee, the Renewable Energy Trust of East Ayrshire Council and to the parish for raising the additional funds to cover the hall roof, windows and external lighting replacements. This was also extended to MM Roofing for expediting the work so quickly. An additional two further applications for funding will be prepared and submitted during the year. Action carried forward; Hall renovations (cooker/extraction hood)- MM confirmed that the new cooker has been installed and is currently in operation; 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. Action carried forward; 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; Hall renovations (fund raising activities)- It was agreed by the meeting attendees at a previous meeting (2nd June 2025) that the car wash, ladies night and afternoon tea should be progressed first. Car wash- Due to some potential issues, it was agreed not to pursue this further. Action closed. Afternoon Tea- This event organised by Frances McCann, was held on the 27th September 2025 and raised £1,100. Action completed. Ladies Night (28th February 2026)- Due to other activities in the hall, this will take place on the 28th February 2026. Action ongoing; Boiler replacement- SM confirmed that the boiler needs to be replaced soon. The possibility for grant funding was previously discussed. MW previously commented	PN to record progress and communicate via a storyboard MM to consult contractor LH to confirm format and timelines. MM and LH to supervise the car wash- CLOSED PN to contact Frances McCann to confirm timelines- Completed
----	--	--

	that the next round of grants to be assessed via the East Ayrshire Renewable Energy Fund would not be until January 2026. This could potentially be explored but a Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) for capital projects up to £50,000 could be submitted with a decision made by the local Council by the end of October 2025 may be a better option. Previous action: MW commented that she is attending a PBIP meeting on 31st July 2025 and will report back to SM on the PBIP application for funding. Action update: MW reported that the PBIP funding route was not an option and would not be progressed. Action closed. SM restated that the boiler replacement is essential and will go ahead regardless of the grant funding. MW previously confirmed that additional paperwork would be needed and for requests over £1,000 would need three quotations. PJ commented that an associate could potentially quote for the work. Action update: Action carried forward; 6. Sacristy expansion- SM reported that more capacity was required in the Sacristy. In December 2025, the wall of the room currently housing the photocopier will be knocked through to create a bigger space for the Sacristy.	<i>MW to report back on PBIP status- Closed</i> <i>PJ to discuss further with SM</i>
6.	Minibus: SM reported that Halo continue their generous offer of the use of their minibus on an ongoing basis.	
7.	Social Events: 1. Additional mini-bus drivers (for collection and return of housebound for Sunday Mass): Previous action- There is some uncertainty on their availability for covering Sundays. Action update: PJ volunteered and just needs the necessary training. Action carried forward; 2. Hallowe'en Quiz- As reported at the weekend Mass, this was held on Friday 31st October 2025 and raised £210. Action completed; 3. Saint Andrew's Night (Friday 28th November)- Sean Kelly has been confirmed as the entertainment; 4. Children's Party (Sunday 7th December 2025)- With Santa's availability confirmed, this is ready to go; 5. Senior's Christmas Dinner (Sunday 11th January 2026)- MM confirmed the date and added that some assistance would be required on the night. SM commented that the Halo has provided a generous donation towards the dinner; 6. Burns Supper (Saturday 31st January 2026)- This will follow the same format as last year;	<i>KR to organise necessary training</i> <i>MM to contact the quiz master- Completed</i>

	7. Saint Patrick's Day (Friday 20th March 2026) - Sean Kelly has been confirmed as the entertainment; 8. Mini-bus trips- PN stated that the last trip of the year was to Cardwell Garden Centre and Largs. PN also reported that PN and KR are looking to create the 2026 plan before the year end. The question of additional drivers was raised and SH suggested there may be some volunteers from Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Matthews who could be called on.	
8.	Youth and Young Adults: Young Adults (S5 to 30)- KR reported that there were 14 attendees for the most recent evening held on Sunday 2nd November 2025. Mass was followed by a talk and a presentation by Fr. Philip Kitchen on the History of the early Church. PN congratulated the group leaders (MM, SM and KR) accompanying the Young Adults who recently completed the 115 km walk of the Camino de Santiago on the 19th October 2025. Galloway Youth (P6 to S4)- KR reported that there were 16 attendees at the last evening on Sunday 26th October 2025. The next evening is planned for Sunday 16th November 2025. There are currently 8 adult leaders.	
9.	Previous Open Actions: 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. Action update: PN confirmed that he was currently reviewing the script but that it will be into next year before any staging would be expected. It was also suggested that it may be a good exercise for the Saint Joseph youngsters to be involved in. Action ongoing.	PN to review script and report back
10.	Mass for the Sick: SM confirmed that the Mass for the Sick would be held during Lent with a time between 1.30 to 3 pm. A request for drivers will be issued nearer the time.	
11.	Maintenance-free Library: PN suggested that a provision to allow a book share could be set up as there is a small library below the stairs in the porch. SM commented that due to limited space there was no scope to expand this further.	
12.	Prompts for New attendees at Mass: With the welcomed addition of new attendees and some visitors attending Mass, PN proposed that a short summary document could be created to provide prompts on what to do and when during the Mass. SM commented that the use of the prayer cards may be appropriate and that it could be something for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) group to progress.	SM to contact the RCIA group

13.	Armistice Exhibition: PN commented that after being provided with a Saint Joseph's magazine from 1955 from a parishioner detailing 7 men from Saint Joseph's who had fallen during the Second World War this encouraged further research that has now identified about approximately 40 men from the parish who fell during the First and Second World Wars. PN proposed to launch an exhibition in the hall from the 11th November to coincide with the First World War Armistice until the end of the month. SM agreed and congratulated PN on the work undertaken.	PN to set up exhibition
14.	Invite to Local Councillors to Community Café: Following on from the successful application for grant funding for the hall renovations, it was agreed that an invitation should be sent out to the local councillors to join us for lunch at one of the Community Café days. SM commented that representatives from the Halo will also be invited and that it should occur before the end of the year with the proposal being in December 2025.	SM to extend an invite to local councillors and Halo representatives
15.	AOCB: 1. Memorial Crucifix next to the confessional- PN raised a parishioner's request to provide a plaque on the history of the First World War memorial crucifix that is sited in the church next to the confessional. SM suggested that Dr. Raymond McCluskey may be able to provide more on this; 2. Stairs leading to stage (hall)- EC reported that a SSVP member had raised a potential issue that using the stairs to the stage in the hall could present a problem as there is no hand rail to provide support. KR commented that once the cupboards in the Green Room were in place and in use for the SSVP activity then it would help lessen the risk. However, it was recognised that the risk would potentially remain for any other access to the stage. SM requested that the installation of the cupboards be expedited plus a hand rail investigated; 3. Mobiles ringing during Mass- PJ asked if this has improved since the appeal to switch off mobile phones during Mass had been issued. SM replied that although it was not eliminated, it was much improved.	SM to contact Dr McCluskey MM to progress
	Date and time of next meeting: Next meeting: Monday, 26th January 2026 at 6:30 pm in St. Joseph's Church Hall. Opening prayer at next meeting: SM to confirm before next meeting.	