

Meeting: St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council
Date: Monday, 26th January 2026
Location: St. Joseph's Church Hall

Present: Maureen Andrew (MA) Eileen Cunningham (EC)
Sally Hamill (SH) *Chair* Janice Lennon (JL)
Hugh Matthews (HM) Margaret McGrath (MM)
Fr Stephen McGrattan (SM) *Parish Priest* George McIntyre (GM) *Secretary*
Sr Marilyn Juliet Obiorah (JO) Mary Walker (MW)
Judith Wilson (JW)

Apologies: Sr Mary Mabel Chukwu (MC), Laura Hand (LH), Patrik Janok (PJ), Sr Mary Rose Maduka (MRM), Paul Nicholson (PN), Fr Kevin Rennie (KR) *Assistant Priest*, Lea-Anne Wilson (LW).

Item	Notes	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, Opening Prayer and Sederunt:</p> <p>SH welcomed everyone and formally opened the meeting. The Prayer to the Holy Spirit was used for the opening prayer for the first Parish Pastoral Council in 2026.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising:</p> <p>The previous minutes were proposed by MA and seconded by JL.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
3.	<p>Three Kilmarnock parishes:</p> <p>SM provided an update on his recent meetings with the two parishes of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Matthew's. He tried to be very clear to everyone when fielding questions about potential changes for the parishes. The task is to create harmony within the three parishes and to have a unity of purpose, as we are here as the Catholic mission. There is also a need to create administrative structures whilst keeping the identity of the parishes.</p> <p>The Bishop has now visited all three parishes to personally explain why the changes are necessary. The recording of his message at the recent Sunday Mass at Saint Joseph's was played. He explained that there had been careful consideration and discernment given to the changes that he has made that have resulted in where we are now. He stressed that "our priests work for you but work with you" to emphasise that support from the parishes will be needed in this time of change. He promised a Pastoral Letter will be issued soon and this will lead to the next round of discussions.</p>	
4.	<p>Finance:</p> <p>SM provided a preview of the parish accounts (Statement of Accounts 2025) and provided a breakdown of the income and expenditure with a comparison to previous years. The finalised version will be issued to the parish soon. One highlight noted was the positive response to the appeal for additional donations earlier in the year to increase donations to meet ongoing requirements.</p>	

5.	<p>Fabric:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hall renovations (Roof)- Previous action: The windows replacement and new lighting work will be started soon. Action completed; 2. Hall renovations (cooker/extraction hood)- 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 update: PN provided a pre-meeting update to confirm that no progress was able to be made on this and as the projects have moved on, proposed to close the action to which the meeting attendees agreed. Action closed; 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: The new units have been installed. Action completed; 4. Hall renovations (fund raising activities)- Ladies Night (28th February 2026)- Due to other activities in the hall, this will take place on the 28th February 2026. Action update: The tickets, posters and communication are prepared and will be advertised in this weekend's newsletter. Waiter table service will be provided by the young adult male group leaders on the night; 5. Church Boiler replacement- SM confirmed that the boiler needs to be replaced soon. SM previously restated that the boiler replacement is essential and will go ahead regardless of the grant funding. Action update: MW confirmed that there was no outlook for grant funding from the local council currently and would provide a report to the next Finance Committee on 11th March 2026. Action carried forward. Previous action: 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 closed; 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. Action update: SM reported that the wall had been knocked through but is currently boarded up pending further assessment by the engineer; 7. Rising Damp (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 due to the age of the building the damp proof course is inefficient. SM confirmed that with improved ventilation around the sides of the flooring, it appears to be acceptable. 	<p>Completed</p> <p>PN to record progress and communicate via a storyboard- Closed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>PJ to discuss further with SM- Closed</p> <p>On hold</p>
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6.	<p>Minibus:</p> <p>SM previously reported that Halo had offered the use of their minibus on an ongoing basis. MM added that some repairs and a MOT are required before it will be able to be utilised.</p>	
7.	<p>Social Events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Saint Andrew's Night (Friday 28th November)- This was cancelled due to time pressures; 3. Burns Supper (Saturday 31st January 2026)- This is a sell out; 4. Saint Patrick's Day (Friday 20th March 2026) – This will soon require to be advertised in the newsletter and preparations are in progress; 5. Mini-bus trips- PN previously reported that PN and KR are looking to create the 2026 plan before the year end. Action update: PN is awaiting a suitable time to meet with KR to determine the trip schedule. Action carried forward. 	<p><i>KR to organise necessary training</i></p> <p><i>PN/KR to create 2026 plan</i></p>
8.	<p>Youth and Young Adults:</p> <p>The newsletter is currently providing a comprehensive overview of the Youth and Young Adult activities.</p>	
9.	<p>Mass for the Sick:</p> <p>SM previously stated that the Mass for the Sick would be held during Lent. MM proposed, as Easter is earlier this year, that the date be pushed out a bit later with Sunday 19th April 2026 agreed. It is anticipated that the Mass be held at 1pm followed by food provided in the hall. Transportation may be provided by SSVP but will need to be confirmed.</p>	
10.	<p>Previous Open Actions:</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. <p>Action update: PN provided a pre-meeting update to confirm that 80% of the script has been reviewed but it has proved to be very difficult to read and is very much of its time. It may also be a good exercise for the young adults to be involved with. Action ongoing.</p>	<p><i>PN to review script and report back</i></p>

<p>HM agreed to liaise with PN regarding the script and organisation.</p> <p>2. 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. Action carried forward.</p> <p>3. 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.</p> <p>PN provided a pre-meeting update. Further research has identified a further 30 men associated with Saint Joseph’s with more to come. PN proposed that a similar exhibition be prepared for November 2026 and the possibility of publishing a book on the Saint Joseph fallen.</p> <p>4. 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. Action completed.</p> <p>5. 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</p> <p>PN provided a pre-meeting update: Dr. McCluskey would be happy to provide a text for the plaque, if given the go-ahead;</p> <p>6. 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.</p> <p>SM requested that the installation of the cupboards be expedited plus a hand rail investigated</p> <p>Action update: MM confirmed that the cupboards have been installed and that the access to the stage and need for a hand rail was much reduced. To reduce any risk of possible accidents, MM will place warning tape at the edge of the stage. No further</p>	<p><i>HM to liaise with PN regarding script and organisation</i></p> <p><i>SM to contact the RCIA group</i></p> <p><i>PN to set up exhibition- Completed</i></p> <p><i>SM to extend an invite to local councillors and Halo representatives- Completed</i></p> <p><i>SM to contact Dr McCluskey- Completed</i></p>
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	action to be taken regarding the hand rail.	<i>MM to progress- Completed/Closed</i>
11.	<p>AOCB:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After the Easter Vigil Mass there will be a reception in the hall for the RCIA candidates who have been received into the Church (Easter Vigil on Saturday 4th April 2026); 2. First Holy Communion celebrations will take place the week after the Mass (Sunday 7th June 2026): It was agreed that there will be food/snacks arranged for a reception in the hall. 	
	<p>Date and time of next meeting:</p> <p>Next meeting: Monday, 20th April 2026 at 6:30 pm in St. Joseph's Church Hall.</p> <p>Opening prayer at next meeting: The Prayer to the Holy Spirit will be used for the meetings in 2026.</p>	