

**Meeting:** St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council  
**Date:** Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
**Location:** St. Joseph's Church Hall

**Present:** Maureen Andrew (MA) Eileen Cunningham (EC)  
 Sally Hamill (SH) *Vice-Chair* Laura Hand (LH)  
 Patrik Janok (PJ) Janice Lennon (JL)  
 Hugh Matthews (HM) Margaret McGrath (MM)  
 Fr Stephen McGrattan (SM) *Parish Priest* George McIntyre (GM) *Secretary*  
 Paul Nicholson (PN) *Chair* Sr Marilyn Juliet Obiorah (JO)  
 Fr Kevin Rennie (KR) *Assistant Priest* Mary Walker (MW)  
 Judith Wilson (JW)

**Apologies:** Sr Mary Mabel Chukwu (MC), Sr Mary Rose Confidence Maduka (MRM)  
 Lea-Anne Wilson (LW).

Item	Notes	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome, Opening Prayer and Sederunt:</b></p> <p>PN welcomed everyone and formally opened the meeting. The Prayer to the Holy Spirit was used for the opening prayer for the second Saint Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council in 2026.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising:</b></p> <p>The previous minutes were proposed by MA and seconded by JL.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Three Kilmarnock parishes:</b></p> <p>SM provided an update on the status of the discussions regarding the three parishes of Saint Matthew's, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Joseph's with the aim of forming one Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and one Parish Finance and Fabric Committee (PFFC).</p> <p>In regard to the joint PPC, eight members to represent Saint Matthew's and eight members to represent Our Lady of Mount Carmel have been nominated. The Saint Joseph's PPC membership of thirteen will remain as it is at present. SM added that he was very keen to maintain good representation across the parishes.</p> <p>As reported in the recent newsletter, the PPC meetings in 2026 will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In April 2026, the three PPCs will meet individually (from 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026);</li> <li>On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 at 7pm, there will be a joint meeting of the PPCs from all three parishes;</li> <li>In September 2026, the three PPCs will meet individually;</li> <li>In November 2026, there will be a joint meeting of the PPCs from all three parishes. The hope is that the composition of the integrated PPC will be established to go into 2027;</li> <li>From January 2027, there will be one PPC for Kilmarnock.</li> </ul>	

	The Parish Fabric and Finance Committee (PFFC) will meet as a joint group for the three parishes from June 2026 with the first meeting planned for Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 7pm.	
4.	<p><b>Dioceses of Scotland:</b></p> <p>SM presented a consultation document on diocesan structures containing a statement from the Bishops of Scotland. A number of questions were posed for further discussion (Appendix 1).</p>	
5.	<p><b>Review of parishes:</b></p> <p>SM presented a statistical and data review summary of the parish which is currently being compiled. Two questions were discussed, namely:</p> <p>Indicate the various pastoral groups in the parish and the pastoral and mission work undertaken? (Appendix 2);</p> <p>What are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for growth and threats/concerns for the parish? (Appendix 3).</p> <p>The next steps are to compile the various responses and provide visibility to the parish before it needs to be submitted by end May 2026.</p>	<i>SM/KR to compile responses</i>
6.	<p><b>Finance:</b></p> <p>SM commented that the summary of the stewardship of Saint Joseph's in 2025 was published in March 2026 and presented to the parish. The financial status is better than last year but it is important to continue the fund-raising activities.</p> <p>PN raised the list of proposed fund-raising activities such as the Abba tribute act, treasure hunt and having a Saint Joseph's calendar of events. SM added that it would be good to keep this creativity but it would need a group to continue on with the proposals. MA offered to take the lead on this.</p>	<i>MA to consider requirements and establish group</i>
7.	<p><b>Fabric:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hall renovations (fund raising activities)- Ladies Night (28<sup>th</sup> February 2026)- Action update:-This was successfully held on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026;</li> <li>2. Church Boiler replacement- SM confirmed that the boiler needs to be replaced soon. Action update: SM reported that this will be completed by the summer 2026. Action carried forward.</li> <li>3. 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.</li> </ol>	<i>Ongoing</i>

	Action update: SM reported that the wall had been knocked through but is currently boarded up pending further assessment by the engineer. Action carried forward;	Ongoing
8.	<p><b>Minibus:</b></p> <p>MM previously reported that some repairs and a MOT are required before it will be able to be utilised. SM reported that a meeting is arranged with a Halo representative, an engineer and a representative from Saint Joseph's will attend.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Social Events:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>Saint Andrew's Night (November 2026)- EC reported that Sean Kelly would be available on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2026. It was agreed to go ahead and book him;</li> <li>Saint Patrick's Day (March 2027) – EC reported on the availability of the same entertainer (Sean Kelly) as this year returning and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2027 would be possible. It was agreed to go ahead and book him;</li> <li>Mini-bus trips- PN previously reported that PN and KR are looking to create the 2026 plan before the year end. Action completed.</li> </ol>	<p>KR to organise necessary training</p> <p>EC to contact and book entertainer</p> <p>EC to contact and book entertainer</p> <p>Completed</p>
10.	<p><b>Youth and Young Adults:</b></p> <p>KR reported things are going well. There were 65 young adults at the Easter Youth Gathering in Dumfries on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Mass for the Sick:</b></p> <p>The Mass for the Sick was held at Saint Joseph's on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026 and the response was good. SM commented that there was a need to better identify individuals to be anointed to help things go smoothly next time.</p>	
12.	<p><b>Previous Open Actions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.  HM agreed to liaise with PN regarding the script and organisation. Action completed: Action update: The script has been reviewed and HM has agreed to provide a notice for the newsletter to gauge interest and recruit participants.</li> </ol>	Completed

	<p>SM emphasised that this will be a long-term project;</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. SM reported that following discussion with the RCIA group, it was agreed and appropriate to use Prayer cards. Action completed;</p> <p>3. 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. Action ongoing.</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><i>HM to provide an insert for the newsletter</i></p> <p><i>Completed</i></p> <p><i>PN to contact Dr McCluskey- Ongoing</i></p>
13.	<p><b>AOCB:</b></p> <p>1. First Holy Communion celebrations will take place the week after the Mass: It was agreed that there will be food/snacks arranged for a reception in the hall.</p> <p>2. Synodality Day at Saint Margaret’s Cathedral, Ayr (Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026)- Bishop Frank requested at least two people from each parish to attend this workshop on Conversations in the Spirit who will learn how to lead this. MW, JL and LH will represent Saint Joseph’s at this event.</p>	<p><i>MM,JL,EC to arrange catering</i></p>
	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting:</b></p> <p>Next meetings: Monday, 1st June 2027 (joint Kilmarnock parishes) at 7pm in St. Joseph’s Church Hall.</p> <p>Monday, 21st September 2026 (St. Joseph’s PPC) 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>	

<p><b>Appendix 1- Dioceses of Scotland</b></p> <p>“Following a request from the Holy See, the Bishops of Scotland have been invited to reflect on how the structures of the Church in our country can best serve her mission in the years ahead, specifically whether the present situation of eight dioceses is suitable.</p> <p>We are all aware of the challenges before us- fewer clergy, changing patterns of practice, and increasing pressures on our diocesan resources, among other things. Yet our mission remains unchanged: to proclaim the Gospel and to lead our people to Christ.</p> <p>Two possible pathways are being proposed for careful discernment: developing deeper cooperation and the sharing of resources across dioceses within our present structures, or the merging of some dioceses.</p> <p>In order to best inform ourselves and the Holy See, each bishop will engage with his diocese over the coming months for the first part of this process. Everyone will be given the opportunity to pray, reflect, and contribute.</p> <p>Following-on from the presentation of a discussion paper, responses from each diocese will contribute to the initial findings which will be given to the Holy See in the Autumn.</p> <p>This is not simply an administrative exercise. It is a pastoral and missionary response to our changing landscape. This process will ensure our Church in Scotland will continue to grow ever more missionary, more Christ-centred, and more collaborative in the service of God’s people.</p> <p>Entrusting this work to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to the intercession of Our Lady, we move forward together with confidence and renewed hope.</p> <p><b>Groups are invited to discuss this further using the following three questions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Where do we see good examples of mission in our parishes, deanery, diocese and country?</li> <li>2. Where does mission need to develop or even begin? What are the barriers to better mission and what can encourage it?</li> <li>3. Does the present structure of eight dioceses in Scotland support mission? Does our diocese already have all that it needs? Would it help if we were to share resources with another diocese or dioceses? Would it help if our diocese merged with another diocese?</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Meeting Responses:</b></p> <p><b>Q1. Where do we see good examples of mission in our parishes, deanery, diocese and country?</b></p> <p><b>Parish:</b> RCIA- great to see so many people joining the Church to witness and lead a life of direction and purpose.</p>	

<p>Youth groups (Diocesan initiative hosted by parish for the deanery)- seems that the numbers are increasing plus parents are open to this by giving their permission.</p> <p>Community café  Eucharistic Ministers  Social Media  Music and pipe-organ  Social events  Bus trips  Pilgrimage  Talks (eg SCIAF, Assisted Dying Bill)  Visiting the sick  Hospital visits</p> <p><b>Deanery (East Ayrshire):</b>  Pilgrimage  Deanery Pastoral Council  Pilgrimage of Hope (Vatican II)  Retreat  Service of Reconciliation with other priests</p> <p><b>Diocese:</b>  Pilgrimage to Whithorn  Bishop getting around the various parishes  Social Media</p> <p><b>Country:</b>  Pilgrimage  Statements and Bishops speaking out in public about the big moral issues such as assisted dying legislation.</p>	
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<p><b>Q2 Where does mission need to develop or even begin? What are the barriers to better mission and what can encourage it?</b></p> <p><b>Barriers</b>  In the home with the family providing the right example  Distractions  Apathy  People lapse and never return  Lack of priests</p> <p><b>Encourage</b>  Community growth  Outreach to people from other places  Maybe introduce a Sunday evening Mass to attract the younger people</p>	
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<p><b>Q3 Does the present structure of eight dioceses in Scotland support mission?</b> <b>Does our diocese already have all that it needs?</b> <b>Would it help if we were to share resources with another diocese or dioceses?</b> <b>Would it help if our diocese merged with another diocese?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Don't know</li><li>b. No, not enough priests, teachers, too many buildings requiring funding to maintain them</li><li>c. Sharing strengths, distribution to the detriment of community</li><li>d. Don't know</li></ul>	
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**Appendix 2**

**Indicate the various pastoral groups in the parish and the pastoral and mission work undertaken?**

Community café

Sunday teas and coffees

RCIA

Youth ministry including Scouts and Guides

Youth and Young Adults' events (delivered in collaboration with the Diocesan Youth Office)

SSVP and foodbank provision

Fellowship of churches- ecumenism

Housebound minibus for Sunday Mass

Housebound visits to provide Holy Communion

Visits to local hospitals

School chaplaincy

Supporting people from overseas and where English is not their first language

Senior Christmas party

Children's Christmas party

Parish Socials to encourage community building

Mini-bus trips

Pilgrimage both national and international

Religious life (inherently missionary)

### Appendix 3

**What are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for growth and threats/concerns for the parish?**

#### **What are the strengths of the parish?**

Welcoming

Saint Joseph's has become more of a community

Music as this helps the liturgy and provides a great sense of occasion

Community café

Organ recitals

Pipe organ and people community singing

Car parking availability

Priests

Bringing in the youth

Liturgical with Ministry of Eucharistic Ministers going out to visit the sick to allow them to continue to access the Sacraments

The way Mass is celebrated here and good to see a similar structure to the Mass in other churches

Choir

Sick being collected in the mini-bus is really worthwhile and allows a sense of community

Tea and coffee after Mass

Priests and Sisters with the level of pastoral care provided can be held as good example

Youth programme

Location of parish- great for accessibility

SSVP and being able to share resources with the wider community

Daily Mass- we are very lucky to have this at Saint Joseph's

Live stream of the Mass

The people of Saint Joseph's – considered as family and friends

Promote things outside church and at work

Joint services with other traditions/faiths

Church hall

Mass at the cemetery

#### **What are the weaknesses of the parish?**

Sub-communities of attendees at Mass on different weekend days (Saturday 6pm and Sunday 11 am Mass) with little chance to mix

Ageing congregation

Opportunities for Masses on Sunday

RCIA- when people come into the Church, what happens after the course to help retain them?

Attendance at events sees the same people supporting the activity, how can this be opened out to encourage others to attend

**What are the opportunities for growth in the parish?**

RCIA

Children's liturgy

Series of talks/Adult Education

Lectures

Prioritising

Demographic in the parish with so many nationalities. Can we do something to recognise and celebrate the different cultures with food, singing and dress to enable them to feel a closer part of our community

Altar servers

Youth activities

Sacramental preparation for children to complement what is being done in school plus allow them to mix together

Sacramental preparation for parents requesting baptism of children- have a baptismal group who meet maybe once a month

Benediction on feast days

Retreat and mission

Collaborating with neighbouring parishes where possible

**What are the threats/concerns for the parish?**

Internet/Live stream- if it is a reason not to attend Mass when able to do so

Lack of a certain age group/missing generation seen through their non-attendance at Mass

Apathy

Distractions such as other Sunday activities

Secular society

Shortage of priests, do we need to get more or redistribute tasks a priest undertakes to the laity?

Priests on a "part-time basis" (due to pressures on time) and spread too thin

Poor or no response to appeals for volunteers for new initiatives/ to maintain existing pastoral initiatives

Ageing estate and when to cut your losses

Amalgamation and possible closure of churches