

## Parish Pastoral Council meeting (Thursday 30 October 2025 7:30-9:25pm)

The meeting was attended by:

Father Deo (President)  
Danny Jeyasingam (Chair)  
Marsha Brown (Secretary)  
Ged Perkins  
Maria Newey  
Val Newey  
Dominique Fregiste  
Raffaella Williams  
Linda Harries (for the finance update item)

Apologies were received from John Lee and Fergal Keane.

The meeting began with an opening prayer.

The committee discussed **actions arising** from the previous meeting noting that discussions would take place with Eucharistic ministers about the practical actions required to reintroduce the partaking of the Blood of Christ during celebration of the Eucharist in the Spring of 2026. Discussions would also take place with the Eucharistic Adoration committee to agree how best to remind those who participate in weekly adoration of their obligations.

The committee reviewed the **parish finances** noting the difficult financial challenge the church is facing. Church income has grown over the last 10 years thanks to the generosity of parishioners, however it has remained largely static over the last 4 years, whilst church expenses during the same period have risen significantly. The committee recognised that this meant the church was currently spending more money than it was earning, therefore needing to draw on reserve funds to operate, which could not continue long term.

The committee agreed that urgent action was necessary to increase income whilst also reducing expenditure. The immediate steps agreed were to: produce urgent recommendations on areas of larger expenditure that could be reduced; engage with the diocese to explore options for access to grants, fundraising and Gift Aid initiatives; let parishioners know more about the financial situation and how important their donations, including legacy gifts, will continue to be; and, to review the financial situation as a standing agenda item at every PPC meeting to assess whether further actions are necessary.

The committee then discussed the **Parish Plan**, which focuses on actions to prioritise in the areas of evangelisation, catechism and formation. The committee agreed that taking these actions was crucial to the spiritual mission of the church and to deepening our relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ. The committee agreed to publish the plan

on the church website for parishioners to review, and to give them an opportunity to volunteer to help with implementing the actions.

The committee discussed the importance of welcoming people to church and explaining **Mass etiquette**, as a refresher for regular parishioners and so that new parishioners and visitors could understand what they would need to do in church and the spiritual reasons for doing so. A short guidance document has been prepared by the Parish Renewal Team and the committee agreed to work on this further to ensure the right balance was struck between respecting the sacredness of Mass whilst not appearing to be setting out rules which have the unintended consequence of making people feel less welcome. Subject to further drafting revisions the guidance will be brought back to the committee for approval and then published on the website with copies made available in the church porch.

Finally, the committee discussed **any other business** including agreeing that it would be beneficial to set up a **WhatsApp Channel** to allow the church to broadcast updates to any followers to keep them in touch with issues; to share messages from the diocese; and, to share details of forthcoming events or matters of interest.

The meeting ended with a closing prayer.

The PPC will next meet on Thursday 27th November 2025.