

Holy Family Parish

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) 19.1.2026

Minutes

In attendance: Teresa Taylor, Agatha D'Costa, Anthony Rosario, Charles Harrison, Louise McConochie, Omere Obaze, John Young, Maziano Guedes, Hazel Noruega, Mary Hirst (Safeguarding Lead) Fr David Cain (PP), Dn Seamus (PD), Anne Cartwright (Secretary).

Apologies: Sebrina Barbosa.

Ethan Pereira – Not in attendance

1. Opening Prayer

Prayer of St John Henry Newman prayed together.

2. Matters arising

➤ OLG Hall

Fr David recapped on issues that have arisen over the last year or so leading on from the discovery of RAAC. We have been unable to get a quote from our usual builders. Fr David's building plans have still not been considered by the Diocese. GAP are putting together a quote for development of the hall and Fr David is going to then try and look for two other quotes which he will put to the Diocese for consideration. We may also ask the Diocese for a loan to get this work done. If they say no, we will ask them why and see what their response to this is. Agatha asked about the need for us to get permission from the Diocese to do renovations. Fr David explained that anything over £10,000 needs to be referred to them. Maziano expressed that selling Our Lady's would be the worst thing to do with the property. If we do, then we have nothing left and no ongoing income. For now, we just keep going. It was agreed by everyone that this is a very viable, active community. Charles asked if the Diocese could make decisions without the Parish Priest agreement and Fr David agreed that they cannot, but by refusing for quotes for work, they could make it difficult for us to maintain our buildings and make them fit for purpose.

➤ SH Drains

Drains in SH car park now repaired and a new inspection chamber has been installed and tree roots cut away. The collapsed drain has now been opened up. It is hoped that

this will resolve the flooding of the hall. We will need to keep a close eye on this and if there are no further flooding problems, we may be able to begin renovations on the hall. Maziano suggested that we do need to protect the hall from the rainwater that is draining down the hill which is Mere Road.

➤ SJ Presbytery

Work getting relatively close to completion. Could be done by Easter. Charles shared that electrics and plumbing only have a few more days work to do. Fixtures and fittings still to be installed.

➤ Christmas Markets – praise & grumble

Generally good feedback. Great amount of money raised. Similar at all churches. The short and sharp nature of the markets is good.

➤ SMM Consultation & Thursday SH Club Mass

SMM consultation has taken place. £40 per week for the hire of St Paul's Church. Refreshments afterwards, some volunteers are beginning to find the responsibility difficult. The consultation seems to have brought the community together. They have decided that they will have a collection each week to cover the costs and more people will volunteer. They will review again after 6 months to see how things are going.

Parishioners of the Club Mass have been asked if they would be happy to go to St Joseph's once a month. Mass would be in the hall and refreshments prepared by Tash in The Olive Branch. This will be discussed again this coming Thursday 22nd January.

➤ Safeguarding – Parish audit completed on 8th December with all parish Safeguarding reps and Fr David. Report on this has been sent to the Diocese.

Safeguarding networking/training day Tuesday 24th February which Mary Hirst has signed up for. This has been set for the Nottingham schools half term which makes it difficult for Leicester reps to attend. Renewals of DBS still ongoing. Mary in contact with Anne in the office about this. Not all volunteers need a DBS but we should have a volunteer list, and each volunteer should have a little training pack about volunteering in the Diocese. This is not yet fully in place.

3. Holy Family Parish Leicester, next steps

Anne confirmed that all 3 parishes were now officially one. We are Holy Family Parish Leicester. We are already ahead of the game as we have representatives from each worshipping community on our Finance and PPC Teams and we have been working together as one community for some time. For most people, they will see very little

difference. Headed letters and forms etc. Will change from Holy Family Cluster or Holy Family Communities to Holy Family Parish. The main changes that people will see, will be the Parish bank account. The new Parish bank account will be the existing Sacred Heart account purely due to the fact that there are more standing orders and credits into that account and more bills going out along with payments to suppliers. It is the busiest bank account of the three and it makes sense for this to become the new Parish account. Fr David and Anne have met with the Diocesan Accountant. The new bank account will be Holy Family Leicester RCP. Once this is correctly set up, we will write to/communicate with everyone that we can to let them know that they will need to switch their standing orders to the new account.

The Our Lady's and St Joseph's accounts can stay open for as long as needed to catch payments in from people who have not changed their standing orders only.

Maziano asked how we will know what money is coming in from parishioners of each separate worshipping community. Anne explained that each standing order in will be allocated (through a tick button in the finance system) to a specific worshipping community (where we know the intended worshipping community). If donations are made where we are unaware of the location that it has come from, this will be allocated just to the main Parish location. There was then much discussion about the importance of parishioners knowing how much their own worshipping community is giving each week. There was debate over whether healthy competition between each location was a good thing and would encourage giving, whilst accepting that it is important that each location supports each other. Deacon Seamus pointed out that many parishioners are now moving across masses and therefore an accurate picture of how much each church gives to the overall parish is becoming a little distorted and even weekly income is more of a Holy Family Parish income rather than an individual church income.

Mary Hirst raised the point that if we report one figure each week, this will look like a lot of money and people may feel that we were getting a sufficient amount of income each week when if it is broken down over each church it shows that this is not a huge amount coming in. Deacon Seamus pointed out that knowing what each church is costing each week could be beneficial for parishioners to see how far their money goes.

Any fundraising for particular churches can be ringfenced for that church/location.

There was a lot of healthy discussion on this topic. Anne said that the way that we will report the weekly income may be something that we will experiment with to see what works best. This could change over time.

4. Olive Branch Café support

- Can people support the café as much as possible. Pass on information to others about café. Tash looking for volunteers to help. Tallia is looking to move on. Remember that Tash can do catering for events.
- Little Footprints are unable to employ Tash at the moment as they already have a cook. If and when they have no cook, they will go to Tash.
- Could we find work experience for people. Perhaps people with learning difficulties.

5. Mission Lab / Synodality

- John Young has been on a couple of training sessions, Mission Lab and Synodality. Ideas shared. Notes provided. Sharing the Lord's prayer in different languages and other elements of inclusion were ideas shared.
- Synodality - looked at how our parish can be more synodal. Fr David suggested that this may link in with the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Deacon Seamus pointed out that the Caritas group had seen that the word 'synodality' only appears once in the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Fr David is considering further synodal activities in the parish.
- If people could look at John's notes and feedback on this and any further ideas that you may have that fit into these topics.

6. Diocesan Pastoral Plan & visitations

- We need someone from the PPC to attend the meeting on Monday 26th January at Mother of God at 7pm. Fr David would like a good selection of people as the Bishop will be visiting the Parish to talk to us about Parish life. Charles has agreed to go to represent the PPC and Sam from the Parish Leadership Team. There will also be Dion Rocha to represent young adults and Angel Gomes to represent the Finance Team.

7. Suggestion Boxes & AOB

AOB

- Mission Enabling Fund at St Joseph's is up to 37%. Not as popular at St Joseph's as it has been at other churches. St Joseph's is still a new worshipping community. There are people from SH and OLGC, some from Holy Cross and some existing St Joseph's parishioners.
- John raised that we had talked about a joint project for all parishes. We didn't get any further with this but there is the new Youth Masses beginning and we will have a Synodal Day in readiness for the Diocesan Pastoral visitation. This is probably enough for the parish to focus on for now.
- Number of altar servers – 58 across the Parish. 38 came along to Christmas training. Maziano asked if there was a limited number of servers allowed at any Mass and the response is that any number of altar servers can serve at any one Mass

- Suggestion boxes.

- None at OLGC.
- SH – any news on additional employment roles for the deanery such as buildings and administration leads. *Some around the Diocese but none here.*
- Could we have another retreat day? *Yes, this can link in with the Synod Day. Have a Mass as well with the retreat day. Yes, we can do that. This may all fit in with the Bishop's visitations.*
- SJ - Have a community noticeboard with contacts for local support, link with SVP, in church and café. Good idea. Could we also have a map in each church of the places that our parishioners are from? *Fr David will look into organising this.*
- Thank you to the clergy for making Mass more relevant for younger people.
- Is playground used for parking at Sacred Heart on Saturday nights? *Yes, there is plenty of parking at Sacred Heart on Saturday evenings.*
- How much is hall hire? *Contact the parish office.*
- Can microphones be improved. Not always loud enough, difficult to hear – *Improvements are beyond our finances at the moment. Please move the lectern microphone closer to you if you are reading. Lapel microphones are not so good.*
- Can we do anything with the lighting – not always easy to see. *Not at the moment as the wiring system is not up to taking on more lighting. Full rewiring needed.*
- Are we getting screens in the church? – *No, not fitted because of the church listing but we will have two large freestanding screens.*

➤ Any possibility of changes in Mass times. – *No, not at the moment. Alternating Mass times are too confusing. People would not be able to keep up with which Mass is where and when.*

Next meeting CHANGED to Monday 20th April at 6.30pm at St Joseph's.