

Holy Family Parish

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) 20.4.2026

Minutes

In attendance: Agatha D’Costa, Anthony Rosario, Sebrina Barbosa, Charles Harrison, Louise McConochie, Omere Obaze, Ethan Pereira, John Young, Maziano Guedes, Mary Hirst (Safeguarding Lead) Fr David Cain (PP), Deacon Seamus (PD), Anne Cartwright (Secretary).

Apologies: Teresa Taylor, Hazel Noruega

1. Opening Prayer

Led by Deacon Seamus.

2. Safeguarding – Mary Hirst

- Mary met with Anne and John Young re volunteers’ database. A spreadsheet has been prepared and is ready to be populated. We are starting with getting volunteer forms from parishioners of Sacred Heart. We will then move on to the other two churches. The form is very short and basic, just name, address and contact details and the date that the person began volunteering. It is important that the date is as close to when they first began volunteering, not from the date that they fill in the form. The Diocese are happy for us to not have referees for those who have been volunteering for a long time. Going forward, new volunteers will need referees. Thank you to Anne and John for their help with this. If there are under 16s in any groups, the leaders of those groups should have a DBS. The question was asked whether the choir leader would need a DBS if young people are with families. Fr David thought that it would be prudent for leaders of groups such as choirs to have a DBS check.
- There will be new young leader volunteers for the summer camp this year who will need DBS checks. Deacon Seamus will look into this and will arrange a meeting with new volunteers and Mary. Young people can come along to the meeting with references. Head Teacher letters are permitted. Probably around five or six new volunteers.
- SVP members will now have their DBS carried out by the SVP. Those members will come off our list, other than those who volunteer in another capacity in the Parish, for example EMs or Children’s Liturgy/Youth leader volunteers. It was thought amongst the group, and Fr David agreed, that our SVP members should continue to have a Parish DBS as well as their SVP DBS. Mary will speak to the Diocese about this.
- Level of DBS checks for Clergy and for EMs has increased.

3. Matters arising:

➤ OLGC Hall

Fr David had been unable to get quotes for the hall roof. He eventually got a structural engineer, highly recommended by Fr John Cahill, to look at it and has since been able to get a quote. Roof only and disposal, £209,000 + VAT.

With structural works inside, £263,000 + VAT.

We could investigate a loan from the Diocese. We could approach another parish for a loan. We could look at Grant applications. If we had a loan, how would we repay it?

It is perhaps worth putting something in the newsletter to explain this to parishioners and to ask for any suggestions on how to move forward.

Deacon Seamus asked about the church roof and whether we should be looking at the costs of replacing this at the same time. The roof leaks and needs attention. Fr David said that we were unlikely to be able to get a heritage grant or other type of grant as the church is not old enough to benefit from this. There is no grade listing on Our Lady's church.

➤ SH Hall

Fr David arranged for the same structural engineer to come and have a look at the problems with the water ingress in the hall. The engineer immediately mentioned dry rot. There are gaps in walls, areas underneath steps, all sloping into the hall and every time there is rain, this is coming in. The engineer proposed that the walls are tanked. The quote for this project was £50,828 + VAT. This sounds like a lot, but this would protect the hall and the church. This quote doesn't include any internal works or improvements to the hall.

It is worth looking at grants for all of this work. There is a huge amount of work involved in applying for grants. Could we look to the Diocese to support us with grant applications?

➤ SJ Presbytery

Coming towards completion. Flooring going in along with bathrooms etc. Furniture ready to be moved in. Thanks to all who have been involved in the project.

➤ SMM Consultation & Thursday SH Club Mass

Consultation carried out. Group really wanted to remain a community there. The parishioners of SMM agreed that they would have a weekly collection which they have been doing and are now raising more than enough to cover the costs of hiring the Polish Church.

No moving forward with a monthly change of venue to the Thursday Club Mass. May revisit this again later.

➤ John Young raised the question of having the Lord's prayer in parishioners different languages at the Pentecost Mass. Fr David agreed that this was a good idea and that we would run with this.

4. Synodality/Diocesan Mission Plan – John Young

John attended the on-line meeting with Bishop Patrick and was disappointed with the lack of reference to Catholic Social Teaching, specifically the option for the poor and justice and peace issues. A bit of a half-hearted response, some reference to food banks but very little.

Catholic Social Teaching seems to have been forgotten by the Diocese. It is also not evident in the way that our Diocesan Schools are currently being run.

Maziano pointed out that we need to encounter Christ in order to put Catholic Social Teaching into action.

Fr David shared that Encounter, Discipleship, Missionary Discipleship is an understanding that should all come together in living out our faith through Catholic Social Teaching.

5. Parish Synod / Retreat Day 30th May – Fr David

There is no set guidance for responding to the Diocesan Mission Plan. We can find our own way. We need to include Catholic Social Teaching. At our Parish Retreat & Synod Day on 30th May, all will have the opportunity to speak.

Fr David explained that the day would begin in prayer, spirit led and listening. He shared Joe Hopkins (Adult Formation at the Diocese) plans for the day with the group. Following a prayerful morning, the afternoon will involve responding to that prayer. We hope to involve new people, people who don't always attend these types of meetings. We trust that the day will be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Maziano raised the issue of harnessing our Confirmation candidates and guiding them in Christian life. Deacon Seamus agreed that this is important and that this may well be a priority that comes out of the Synod Day and becomes part of our Mission Plan.

Maziano shared that we all need to be aware of our own calling. What is our mission? Each person's individual mission builds into the Parish Mission Plan.

There is an intention to get personal invites to people to encourage attendance by a wide variety of people.

6. Merged Bank Accounts – Anne

Anne shared the current situation with the bank account merger and the work involved. Many parishioners from St Joseph's and Our Lady's have moved their standing orders over to the new Holy Family Parish account, but a number haven't. Anne will be contacting as many of these people as possible in the coming weeks and months. Much of what must be done relies on the support a member of staff at the Diocese who is overwhelmed with work for parishes across the whole Diocese and so not everything can happen immediately. We are also in the process of putting together the report for the end of the financial year 2025-2026.

7. Suggestion Boxes + AOB – All

- OLGC – Can we go back to having a Divine Mercy Mass at 3pm on Divine Mercy Sunday. All parishioners could come along and get involved.

Fr David goes away immediately after Easter to Lourdes, and we cannot always rely on having another priest available.

SOL – This issue was discussed in The Tablet magazine - People are stuck with the idea the Divine Mercy Mass has to be at 3pm. This is not the case, it could be within the Sunday Mass. There was a Divine Mercy Mass at Holy Cross and at St Patrick's this year. Do we need to cater for this when there are other local churches celebrating a Divine Mercy Mass at 3pm? The Divine Mercy Chaplet can be done at any time during the day. Fr David said that as we have a Divine Mercy Chapel at OLGC it could be possible, but the Parish would need a group to organise it. Deacon Seamus suggested that this should be put to the Deanery for discussion. Fr David will take this to the next Deanery meeting.

- SJ – Can we know when there are special things are going on across all churches and who is leading them. Yes.
- SH – Give a Baptism Box out to Baptism families. Contains various religious items and costs £25.99 from CTS. The parish could not afford this due to the quantity of Baptisms. However, should any parishioners wish to donate a box to the parish, we could pass

them on to a family. Decided that we will buy a box and have a look at it and see what we think is the value in the box.

AOB

- Fr David raised that this afternoon, he had a call from David Lawes, the Diocesan COO. When Fr David took over Sacred Heart Church, the parish administrator retired and there was no administrator in post at OLG. This is why Anne Cartwright was appointed. When Fr David took over St Joseph's, a member of staff was in post and a meeting was held between the staff of both churches and Fr David, looking at how the roles would be divided. This meeting was a positive one with ideas for the future management of the Parish group.

A short while into Fr David's time as Parish Priest, the member of staff at St Joseph's submitted a grievance regarding Fr David. This grievance was mismanaged from start to finish by Diocesan HR and the COO and led to David Lawes having to make a formal apology to Fr David.

After many issues, the member of staff from St Joseph's received a settlement which was agreed by the Diocese and not Fr David or St Joseph's Parish. Fr David was asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement on how this matter had been settled. Fr David refused to sign this and yet the matter was still finalised by the Diocese.

David Lawes has now told Fr David that he expects St Joseph's Parish to pay approximately £22,000 to the Diocese to cover this settlement. He is coming to the Parish to meet with Fr David on Friday 24th April.

Although the Diocese hold the parish funds, they cannot take this money without Fr David's agreement.

Deacon Seamus shared these opinions: St Joseph's is no longer a Parish and doesn't hold its own funds. It is now part of the Holy Family Leicester Parish which is funded by the Parishioners of three churches. St Joseph's never made any member of staff redundant and never agreed to any redundancy payment.

The PPC voted unanimously that we will not pay this £22,000 to the Diocese.

The group as a whole were shocked and disappointed that the Diocese should behave in this way.

Anne shared that throughout this most upsetting process, Fr David's welfare was referred to the Clergy Welfare Lead at the Diocese. Following an hour-long conversation with this Team Leader, nothing happened. Fr David was not contacted.

The group wholeheartedly expressed their support of Fr David in this matter. The question was asked, why are we discussing Mission at Parish level when the Diocese cannot lead by example through their actions and their care of their Parish Priests and Parishes?

The group recommended to Fr David that he has someone with him at his meeting with David Lawes this Friday afternoon.

As Fr David has never signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement and the actions of the Diocese now have an effect on the Parish as a whole, it was felt important that this information was shared with the Parish Pastoral Council.

- John Young expressed his concern with the music at 11.30am Mass. He feels that the pace of some of the music, e.g. 'He is Lord' had slowed and needs to be livened up. Fr David and Deacon Seamus both said that they hadn't noticed this. The choir are trying out a number of new hymns and these probably will improve once the congregation know them better.

Next Meeting: Q3. Monday 29th June 2026

Future Meetings:

Q4. Monday 26th October 2026