

Holy Family Parish

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) 29.6.2026

Minutes

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

Apologies: Teresa Taylor, Sebrina Barbosa

Omere Obaze has now left. She and her family have returned to Nigeria. We thank Omere and her family for all that they have brought to the Parish in their time here. They will all be much missed.

Opening Prayer – Led by Fr David

1. Safeguarding – Mary Hirst

Thanks to John for meeting with Mary regarding the volunteers register. Thanks also to Anne for putting together the volunteer's database. Elle has populated the database for Sacred Heart. St Joseph's and Our Lady's to begin filling in forms now.

Mary and Anne agreed that there will be a couple of opportunities in August and September for everyone who needs a DBS renewal to come along to see Mary and Martina to complete the renewal checks. All the people who need to renew their DBS will receive an email from the Parish Office telling them what to bring. If people don't take the opportunity to renew their DBS, then they won't be able to continue with their ministry until their DBS is renewed. Renewals for St Joseph's and Our Lady's will follow.

The majority of leaders for the 4Mission Summer Camp already have a DBS. Any young people without a DBS will have to always be with someone who has a DBS check. Deacon Seamus will do a Safeguarding session with all leaders before the camp.

2. One Priest

When Fr David was first appointed, he was told that, in the not too distant future, he was likely to be the only priest in the Parish. We have been blessed to date with having the support of Fr Prince and Fr Vitalis. When Bishop Patrick was here for the Confirmations, he informed Fr David that Fr Vitalis would be moved on to become a Parish Priest elsewhere and that there wouldn't be a replacement priest available for the Holy Family Leicester. This did not come as a surprise.

Fr David has looked at the schedules for the celebrations of Christmas and Easter. Following on from Fr David Rocks in 2025 and Fr John Lally in 2026 being supply for the Easter Triduum, it is clear that it is too much to expect of a retired priest and we really need to find a way of covering these feasts with the clergy that we have. Fr David shared his suggestions for the Christmas and Easter Masses and explained his thinking behind the times suggested.

For Christmas, it is suggested that there will be one Christmas Eve Mass at each church, 4pm at St Joseph's, 10pm at Our Lady's and midnight at Sacred Heart, and one Christmas Day Mass, usual times, at each church.

For Easter, the suggestion is, Maundy Thursday, one Mass at St Joseph's, Good Friday, two services, one at Sacred Heart and one at Our Lady's, Deacon Seamus can lead a Good Friday service and one Easter Vigil at St Joseph's. We would then have our three usual Masses on Easter Sunday.

At all of these Masses, ministries would be shared from across churches, flower arrangers, servers, musicians, stewards, etc. Ethan asked about servers' practices beforehand, and Deacon Seamus said that this would be easy to arrange.

Agatha asked if it was definite that Fr Vitalis wouldn't be replaced. Yes, it is definite. The current visa issue is causing problems. Fewer international priests are able to come into the country and others who are here have expiring visas that are not always being replaced.

If the visa situation was to change, it is possible that at some time in the future we may have an assistant priest, but not now.

Mary asked Fr David if he can manage all four weekend Masses. Fr David hopes that he can, as long as his Sunday afternoon is protected, no events on a Sunday afternoons. He will also continue to have Wednesday as a day off.

It will be important that the music at each Mass works with the Mass in order to allow Fr David to get away on time and get to the next Mass. Hymns must only be sung for as long as they are needed, they shouldn't go on for too long after the liturgical action is completed. If Fr David is away or ill, cover priests will be invited along but not to do all four Masses, we would arrange for two priests on these occasions.

At Easter, all RCIA candidates can be received together. A Pascal candle for each separate church can be lit at the one Vigil Mass and then taken to the individual churches.

Early bird Masses at St Joseph's, morning Masses at Sacred Heart and evening Masses at Our Lady's will continue to be a part of our Holy Days of Obligation.

Fr David looks after six schools. He will probably have to reduce the school Masses to five.

Services of Word & Communion will become more common. Eucharistic Ministers need to be more prepared to lead these services. Some additional training will be needed as many EMs are not confident to do this. We also need to know which EMs are available for weekday services of Word and Communion.

We need to be supportive of Fr David's wellbeing. Parishioners will need to adapt to the situation with regards to things like house blessings, weddings, baptisms – they may not be able to be on the date that people want. It is important also for us to remember that although Fr John Lally is a personal friend to many of us, we also need to safeguard him and make sure that we are not asking him to cover too regularly, he needs to have the space to enjoy his retirement. Everyone will need to adapt to what this busy Parish of three churches is able to do with only one priest. We need to get used to only having the one priest.

Fr David's wellbeing should be a regular item on the PPC agenda.

3. Mission Plan

All were asked if they had any thoughts on the Mission Plan. Anne shared that we feel that the Mission Plan is an achievable plan, however some of the plans will only happen if parishioners take on the leadership of projects. Fr David, as the only priest, will need leaders to take projects forward.

We have a retreat planned for Saturday 31st October with Sr Marie Kolbe. She will base the retreat on the charism of the Holy Family.

John Young mentioned having a WhatsApp group to read a passage from the New Testament regularly and share your reflections on the readings. This was a well-received idea.

4. Buildings/Handyperson

Fr David does a lot of DIY jobs across all three church locations. A priest usually costs the Parish around £15,000 per year. To employ a handyperson, someone with a trade and lots of practical skills for one day a week, we think would cost around £10,000 per year. This role would be to carry out regular repairs and ongoing buildings projects, meet with contractors doing works and providing quotes etc. There is a huge amount to be done across all churches.

Fr David met with Laura O'Brien to see if they could apply for grants. We could apply for grants but mostly organisations want us to match fund, so for Our Lady's roof, which will cost around £300,000, they would only pay £150,000 and we wouldn't be able to match this through fundraising. The idea has been put forward that we think creatively about maybe making the church a multi-use building that can be used for other events as well as Masses. Someone would need to come forward to lead on this if it became a viable idea.

Raising funds for the waterproofing of the hall at Sacred Heart is more realistic and Fr David and Laura are looking into this.

5. Suggestion Boxes/AOB

Suggestions from St Joseph's: When Fr David moves to St Joseph's, could there be a vigil Mass at St Joseph's. This would help parishioners who can't get public transport on a Sunday morning. Sacred Heart was chosen for the vigil Mass due to the parking situation so that parishioners from all three Saturday Masses would have enough room to park. As it turned out, a lot of people from the Saturday Masses either moved to Sunday Masses or to other churches. In view of Fr David being the only priest in the Parish from September, this won't be possible.

Could we have somewhere to leave cards/mail to one another so that they don't get lost. Not on a regular basis but perhaps a posting box at Christmas/Easter would be possible. Perhaps the person who made this suggestion would like to arrange this?

No suggestions from Our Lady's.

No suggestions from Sacred Heart.

Emailed invite from The New Wycliffe Care Home for a church stall at their Summer Fete on 18th July from 2.30pm. Nobody is available at this time as we have our own mini fete on the 19th. If we have the date for next year asap, we will try to attend. Perhaps the SVP could attend. Anne to reply to the home.

Louise asked if there had been any further action from the Diocese asking for the £20,000. Fr David saw the Diocesan COO with a representative. It was accepted that if the money was claimed back, Fr David would need to release all information to the Parish regarding this matter so that they would be fully aware of why the money was being taken from the Parish. The Diocese have made no further attempt to claim this £20,000.

Next Meeting: Q4. Monday 26th October 2026