Holy Family Parish Leicester

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting 26.10.2026

Minutes

In Attendance

Louise McConochie, Agatha D'Costa, Anthony Rosario, Ethan Pereira, Teresa Taylor, Sebrina Barbosa, Hazel Noruega, John Young, Deacon Seamus O'Looskan (Parish Deacon), Fr David Cain (Parish Priest), Anne Cartwright (Secretary)

Apologies

Mary Hirst (Safeguarding), Charles Harrison, Maziano Guedes

1. Opening Prayer – Conversations in the Spirit

   The Gospel for the coming Sunday was read, and we all shared our immediate thoughts from the Gospel reading.

2. Matters Arising – Extraordinary Meeting

   Feedback was given from the extraordinary meeting of the PPC and the Finance Teams held in September. This was a confidential meeting regarding future plans for Our Lady's Church and a financial issue for the Parish. The general feeling was that the Diocese are more interested in money than in the mission of the Church, their parishioners and prayer.
   There should have been no doubt in the mind of the Diocese that there is a huge strength of feeling and of unity between parishioners of our Parish that there is a future for Our Lady's and that our funds should be protected. The meeting was very much a representation of the Parish, not of individual churches.

3. Safeguarding Update

   Message from Mary – Renewals are now almost complete. New EM DBS checks are now underway.

4. What is our reason for being

   We have not really made any inroads into the Parish Mission Plan yet. There is a possibility that we may have someone who can lead and galvanise groups to start to work on all the areas that we want to develop. This is not yet confirmed so please pray that this will come to fruition.
   What is our purpose? Are we here to serve the buildings or are the buildings here to serve us?

It was agreed that our churches are of utmost importance. Fr David pointed out that although the halls were in better condition four or five years ago, there are now more prayer groups and prayer based activities going on; Good Shepherd Prayer Group, Jesus Youth Teens, Summer Camps, Easter and Advent retreats.

Fr David suggested the possibility of an independent survey of us as a Parish. What would they think about our buildings, about how we use them and how they serve us? What would they think about our Mission and how we are working towards that? What would their proposals be on how we move into the future?
Deacon Seamus thought that Divine Renovation may be able to point us in the right direction to find someone who could help us with this. Alternatively, we could ask for support from The Church of England. This kind of intervention could help us to find a way forward for the Parish.
A lot of time has been spent by Fr David and a number of other very helpful parishioners in putting together a couple of applications for grants. Sadly, both have been rejected early on.

All agreed that an independent survey could be a good way forward. We have no idea what the outcome would be and whether we would even agree with it, but it may make us look at things in a different way and help us to acknowledge the reality of the situation that we are in.

Fr David feels that this should be independent of him, but he is happy to contact Divine Renovation to see if they can point us in the right direction. One representative from each Parish would be helpful to steer this/liaise with any survey group. Ethan from Our Lady's volunteered. Fr David will speak to someone from St Joseph's and Sacred Heart to see if they would be able to help this project.

Ethan made some notes regarding this matter during the meeting that Fr David felt covered some very important points, see below.

From Ethan

Surveyor Ideas

- *Have a set baseline of what CANNOT be changed. This would be based on the Gospel teachings and only that.*
- *After this, prioritise other sectors.*
- *After the surveyor has completed their survey, over a set time period, the findings should be evaluated against the priority list.*
- *Then take away such sector and further evaluate the results*

Challenges

- *Unhappy parishioners: help people to understand that it wasn't a personal or 'bias' change, as it was the advice of an external body.*
- *Bad change: have a roll-back plan in case the changes go wrong.*

- *Communication: any big changes should be appropriately communicated to all parishioners, especially any who may encounter a negative impact.*

Benefits

- *Outside point of view with minimal bias.*
- *Gospel focused (as it should be).*
- *Long term positive (short term negative).*
- *One door closes, another one opens?*

5. Our Buildings – Continue on the same path or try a new direction?

   This is covered by the discussion above.

6. Suggestion Boxes + AOB

   OLGC: Disabled/limited mobility access getting to the door of the church. Can't drive right up to the door. What can we do to alleviate this problem?

   Perhaps a ramp at the back into sacristy or widen the path. Possibilities will be considered.

   SH: No suggestions in box. John Young asked if we could have another shared Mass with the Zimbabweans at Sacred Heart. This was agreed as a good idea. Will be discussed at Leadership Meeting with Daryl Fernandes who organised the last one.

   SJ: Priest to say Mass in honour of the Holy Spirit – All Masses are in honour of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is called upon in every Mass.

   Keeping Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation protected – Mass is provided on these days for all who are able to attend.

   Build up prayer groups in people's homes – Lots of prayer groups and opportunities for prayer are available. These are detailed every week in the newsletter.

2027 Meetings all at St Joseph's at 6.30pm:

18th January

19th April

28th June

25th October

Meeting closed with the Glory be prayer.