



The Parish of St Mary



Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Thursday 27th November 2025 – St Peters Church 7pm

Agenda & Minutes

- 1) Prayer & Visioning
- 2) Feedback & Review of last 2 months
- 3) Looking Forward
- 4) Bricks and Mortar
- 5) Any Other Business
- 6) Proposed Next Meeting
- 7) Closing Prayer

Attendees: - Fr Festus, John Joyce, Kath Devlin, Alan Duerden, Ann Marie Coubrough, Santina Taylor-Rossi, Michael Waite, Katrina, Bob Marshall

Apologies: Peter Maloney

Agenda

1) Prayer & Visioning

- John Joyce opened the meeting with a Prayer to the Holy Spirit
- Opening Reading from the Gospel of St John 1:9-12
- Conversation in the Spirit: A blessed parish Christmas – what would it look like?

Following the prayers John opened with a question to the group what would a Blessed Christmas for the Parish would look like for you?

Here are some of the comments: -

- A combination of more members of our individual families coming to church at Christmas
- Sense of enthusiasm at Church and at mass
- Provide sufficient food for the homeless
- Joyful with more people at mass
- Joining together and being together
- Inspiring and uplifting within the service and singing
- Making Advent Calendars with children's ideas to remind them of Christmas
- Children to present their thoughts on Christmas and what children know about Christmas
- Would like to see joyful liturgy for the vigil and Christmas day mass which includes music and choir
- Potential midnight mass
- Prepare spiritually with Novena's, prayers and gospel passages for 9 days
- Come together and spend time together
- Singing Carols at maybe Morrisons, Asda, nursing homes
- Think about maybe a message or "quote of the day"
- Personal Family time together singing carols and hymns
- Remind people that Jesus is Born and it's the Birth of Jesus
- Sing or play carols before masses

2) Feedback & Review of last 2 months

- **St Peters Luncheon** – This was a good turnout and a very successful event
- **Spiritual Programme** –
 - Fr Festus expressed that he enjoyed this event although he would like more people to attend. There was a consistent number of people, and he would have liked more one-2-one discussions. It was suggested that a changing of the scheduled time could bring more people to this event
 - Fr Festus feelings and observations was that some changes may need to be made with more emphasis and parishioners to be more aware spiritually.
 - It was suggested that Wednesdays would be a good day for Spiritual Events
 - John recommended that if every Parishioner said hello to a different person every week this would grow our community and be more welcoming – we need to talk more to Parishioners and especially Newcomers
 - Fr Festus showed his concern with regards to the length of Mass and has been approached by members of the congregation

3) Looking Forward.

- Lenten Houses – This would support our Social Events

- Christmas Party which is scheduled for the 14th December 2025 – it was mentioned that Bottles were required
- It was suggested that we could arrange an auction to increase our finances
- Parish programme – Fr Festus to publish the Programme of future events to be held in the Parish

4) Bricks and mortar

Various building work and repairs have taken place within the Parish.

1.	Carpet replacement	£4,000
2	Roof Repair	£1,800
3.	Outside Lights	£2,100
4.	4 New Heaters	£16,000 (-£4k)
5.	Painting done by volunteer	

5) Any other Business

- **Bob Marshall Presented an email and CAD Drawings with regards to a New Toilet to be built/Installed at the back of St Columbas Church**
- **It was agreed that Bob would reach out to Bradford Cathedral as they had a similar project and he would report back to the group**
- **Bob would also reach out to local businesses/supermarkets asking if they would be interested in supporting this project**
- **Bob will report back at the next meeting with further information and costings**
- **Fr Festus mentioned that he will be on holiday for the majority of January 2026. Fr McGillicuddy will cover 1st weekend, and MSP will cover the remainder of Fr Festus's holidays.**

If I have missed anything – apologies.

Next Meeting 12th February 2026 @ St Columbas 7pm