Saint Mary, Star of the Sea
Roman Catholic Church

28 Greenock Road,
Largs KA30 8NE

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Membership: Louise Cameron, Angela Clements, Sarah Jo Crosbie, Stephanie Fisher, Bridie Lamont, Celia Lewis, Gordon McMillan, Mgr. Peter Magee, Morag McGrath, Eleanor McGuire, Joseph McGuire, Scott Ogilvie, Alana Reilly, Bruce Walker.

Thursday 5th November 2026, 7-8pm

MINUTES

1. 15-minutes' Silent Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament (in the hall). The meeting opened at 7pm with this silent prayer for inspiration and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

2. Sederunt. There were no apologies. 11 members were present.

3. Document: *Parish Consultation Results (May, 2026)*. Adopting some elements from the synodal method, everyone who wished to speak on a given point of this document was heard. There then ensued an open discussion to focus on what practical outcomes would be desirable and realistic.

In general terms, members were very positive about the consultation results. We should be, and are, grateful and proud of the much that is already going in the parish. The Spirit always moves us further, though, both to deepen what is already there and to expand into unchartered waters. Without planning it (the Spirit was at work), the discussion almost immediately dovetailed with what Bishop Frank has been voicing as our need to be a more missionary and evangelizing Diocese. In the discussion, we

focused outwards, not inwards, even if logically the ultimate purpose is to draw others to meet Christ in His Church.

The main themes which emerged from the discussion were:

- Outreach to the lapsed/unchurched and to anyone else who might respond: this is the task of *all* parishioners, something which must be addressed more frequently and encouragingly;
- Need to communicate with those others more effectively both in language that can be understood and in other accessible ways;
- Need to motivate both ourselves to reach out and those to whom we reach out; for example, how many parishioners felt motivated enough actually to read the parish consultation results?
- Catholics are members of society as well as of the Church; the pull of society's values and priorities are often at odds with those of the Church, and so Catholics themselves feel strongly the tension and pressure which results. It is easier to give in to what *is* easier; motivation to pursue the higher values then suffers;
- The outreach must not be intended as competing with anything offered by contemporary society, but is aimed at awakening faith and bringing Christ, His Word and His Sacraments to others in creative and engaging ways;
- The issues faced by our parish are equally faced by *every* parish and even by social clubs and groups struggling to attract members; it is important therefore to source success stories on how others are dealing with these issues. Might there be a national database of resources?

Practical outcomes:

- Alana generously offered to work on a plan to reach young families in the parish that are less committed to the faith; Stephanie kindly offered to interface with her efforts from the primary school perspective;

- Fr. Peter will attempt to make contact with other priests and dioceses to see if through this Church network ideas and proposals can be sourced for the outreach effort;
- Other practical ideas were mentioned but were not discussed in depth this time round, e.g. some sort of kiosk on the parish front grounds during the Viking Festival to engage passers-by (Louise; Bruce); how to seek contact between the parish and Largs Academy (Alana); finding parish projects and activities liable to appeal to teenagers (Celia); offering an open soup kitchen on a regular basis (Scott); better use of the social media (new website now launched) (various).

The meeting ended at 8pm, with a prayer and a blessing.

PM 6/11/26.