

Minutes of Parish Advisory Committee Meeting

Sunday 1st February 2026 at 11.45am at St Michael's Centre

Attendees: Fr Matthew (FM), James Mulcahy (JM), Elaine Bright (EB), Monica Chidgey (MC), Lolita Parmesa (LP), Margaret Evans (ME), Andreas Erhardt (AE), Vivian Evans (VE)

Apologies: Joe Disson (JD), Stephanie Elias (SE), Jesumary Vijayashankar (JV), Elaine Bright (EB)

1. Opening Prayer

The meeting commenced with an opening prayer led by FM.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from JD, SE, JV & EB.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by AE and seconded by VE.

4. Matters Arising and Chair's Points

- **Elections:** The ordinary PAC members' three-year tenure has almost expired, therefore an election will be called.
In discussions regarding encouraging parishioners to contribute to this vital service within the parish, ME raised that seats on the PAC is open to parishioners over the age of 16.
 - **ACTION #1:** Process to be discussed via FM and JM.
 - **ACTION #2:** Members of the current PAC to speak at masses.

5. Parish Priest's Report, including Evangelisation Report

- **Calvary Statue:** Soon to be undergoing renovations
- **Parish Website:** A new version of the parish website is live.
- **Evangelisation Group:** Meets every 2 weeks with views of forming and casting vision
- **Mass Responses:** Another television monitor has been introduced for the other side of the nave

- **Open Church:** Continues to have visitors throughout the day, and now open until late
- **Thursday Lunch Club:** Running well. More members sought.
- **Confirmation Preparation:** This has started informally, with dates to be confirmed.
- **Sacraments:** No weddings at present, 4 funerals this year.
- **Concerts:** A number of events planned, including hosting Synergy, as well as the Unicorn Singers.
- **Passion Play:** Rise Theatre Company will be performing the passion play in the church on 19th March
- **Religious Mass:** To take place on 2nd February.

6. Reports from PAC Members

a. Catechesis & Children's Liturgy

- **Holy Communion:** 7 children enrolled on the programme this year. Sunday 7th June 2026.
- **Confirmation:** Schedule drafted. 8/9 – group number.

b. Filipino Community / Parish Connections:

- **Flower Arrangement:** Rota scheduled on a monthly basis. Volunteers very much sought.
- **Pentecost:** Church arrangement (24th May) – gather nationalities to organise program.

c. Pro-Life / SPUC Group

- **Senedd:** Indefinite postponement until there is a final decision made in Westminster.
- **House of Lords, Clause 191 (abortion up to and including birth):** Prayers sought for the end of this debated clause.
- **Private members Bill (Assisted Suicide) in Parliament:** Prayers again sought that the bill falls.
- **Development Officer:** Julia Vivienne (evangelical Christian) to talk with Churches Together at their next meeting.
- **Data:** Latest figures for abortion (2023), record high of increase of 26,000.
- **Confirmation classes:** Plans to find ways to incorporate SPUC materials

d. SVP

- **Meetings:** Meeting either on Zoom or at Presbytery
- **Local contributions:** SVP continue to support vulnerable parishioners and wider community with lifts, providing emergency food parcels
- **School liaison:** Arranged for Mini Vinnies to write Christmas Cards for beneficiaries and those who Fr Matthew visits at their homes. Provided 10 x £50 vouchers to vulnerable families at OLSM school for Christmas
- **Abergavenny Foodbank:** Donations continue from the SVP.
- **Neighbouring conferences – Abertillery/Brynmawr:** Supported Abertillery and Brynmawr with practical aid for a family in extreme need due to domestic abuse. A food pantry is opening in Brynmawr.
- **Neighbouring conferences – Ebbw Vale:** Facilitated the raising of funding for food pantry at CSL Ebbw Vale , All Saints School following the vermin infestation of their food cupboard including raising funds to get 30 x £50 vouchers for vulnerable families for Christmas. We continue to help out at the food pantry
- **Nevill Hall:** Nightwear collected and dispatched to the Chaplaincy team; wards concerned were extremely grateful. MC also met with the Nevill Hall Chaplain to discuss possible collaborative working between the hospital the SVP and the parish.
 - **ACTION:** Plan to add more Catholic items and literature as part of Nevill Hall chaplaincy
- **Collaborations:** AtOS and Abergavenny Community Enterprise (ACE)
- **SVP Shops:** St Vincents Shop in Merthyr has unfortunately closed as it became financially inviable. We are still collecting items to take to the St Vincents Shop in Newport which is now under new management and thriving.
- **Safeguarding:** Members of the conference are to have Safeguarding Training Update in the next couple of weeks. From March, DBS checks for SVP members will be undertaken by the SVP, not the Archdiocese.
- **Jam Jar Appeal:** The conference hopes to launch our jam-jar appeal for Lent offering jars with labels or just labels for Lenten almsgiving for the SVP
- **Camino Fundraiser:** Monica is walking 100km of The Camino in April with the SVP and is looking for sponsorship. Funds will be used for SVP projects locally in South East Wales like the setting up of food pantries in Valleys communities and sponsoring the Wales Vinnie Camp.
- **Abergavenny Catenians:** MC was invited to speak at a gathering of the Catenians

e. Choir / Michael's Mates

- **Carol Service:** Successful carol service – with thanks to both schools and church choir for their performances
- **Choir:** Folk mass took place today with one to happen next year.

- **Michael's Mates:** Taking place during February Half-Term

7. Finance (FM reporting)

- Incorporated as part of Item 5.

8. Safeguarding/Health and Safety

- If parishioners carry out multiple roles within the parish, they may require an additional DBS – please enquire with Will Duggan, DSL.

9. Headteacher's Report

- **RE school inspection:** Report received: Grade 2 awarded in all three areas of inspection, with confirmation of compliance.
- **Governor 'Catholicity' subcommittee:** The work of this committee continues.
- **School Masses:** Individual year group masses scheduled to take place within church
- **School/Family Mass:** 1st March to celebrate St David's Day. All invited to attend.
- **Contributions to Candlemas archdiocesan mass:** Year 6 pupils attended and welcomed, altar ministers ministered during the Mass. A whole school display based on 'Heart Speaks to Heart' displayed.
- **Easter Liturgies:** All classes will take part in liturgies following the theme of Holy Week.
- **Car Park:** Ongoing
- **Gunter Mansion:** VE invited to become a trustee of the Gunter Mansion project, in which he has attended meetings.
- **RE Training:** Fr Bernard Sixtus attended the school in January and will return later in the year to lead RE update training on the topic of 'To love you more clearly'.

10. St Michael's Centre Update

- **Building Condition:** Repairs all finished, looks good, centre running well.
- **Grant awarded for new resources and equipment.**

11. Any Other Business (AOB)

- **Archdiocesan Day for the Religious:** OLSM are hosting the religious of the Archdiocese here on Monday 2nd February (Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life) with Mass at 12 noon with Archbishop Mark.
- **Altar Server Albs:** AE suggested that new albs should be purchased as altar servers are outgrowing their current albs.

12. Date of Next Meeting

To be held at 11.45am on 22nd March 2026 in St Michael's Centre.

Closing Prayer

The meeting concluded with a prayer led by FM.