

**ST JOSEPH & ST PATRICK'S WEMYSS BAY  
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2025**

**Attendees:** Helen McMunn (Chair), Louise McCauley, Michael Tormey, Canon Berry, Brian Blacklaw, John Wilson, Gerry McCauley, Martin McCauley, Anne Clark, Marcus Barry, Isobel Quinn, Gillian Hall, Christine Malcolmson.

**Apologies:** Debbie Galbraith, Hazel Mitchell, Kate Borthwick, Rob Reid

## **1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER**

Helen (Chair) opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance, thereafter, Canon Berry led everyone in prayer.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Helen requested a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The minutes were approved by Marcus Barry and seconded by Isobel Quinn.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Agenda items will address previous meeting matters.

## **4. SAFEGUARDING**

Helen received an update from Hazel before the meeting:

A safeguarding meeting for coordinators and parish priests is scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Training for volunteers working with vulnerable adults and children is currently being provided and Hazel has said that she will ask specifically about the training. Hazel has recently updated all our Parish Risk Assessments.

## **5. REPORTS ON CALENDER EVENTS**

World Day of Prayer – Our Parish was well represented.

St Patrick's Night/Quiz – The event received mixed feedback; some attendees enjoyed the quiz, while others preferred the traditional games evening. The atmosphere on the night was very good, a profit of £300 was made for the Parish.

Lenten Talks – Both sessions were well attended.

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Jonathon Whitworth delivered a talk titled "The Eucharist: The Pearl of Great Price," which lasted 45 minutes and was attended by approximately 50 parishioners. Additionally, the online viewership reached 108.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Fr. Ryan Black presented "Return to Me: Sacrament of Reconciliation," with attendance of about 40 parishioners and 101 online views.

Feedback for both events was extremely positive. In-person attendance averaged 20% of the parish, while online views exceeded 100 for both talks. Gerry noted that it was not possible to determine the number of viewers who watched the entire presentation. The use of the church as the venue was considered a positive although not particularly comfortable after an hour. Helen said she would advise future speakers to limit presentations to no longer than 45 minutes. Father Berry reported that a donation had been made to each speaker.

Passover Meal on 14<sup>th</sup> April at Skelmorlie Church had full parish representation; next year, St Joseph & St Patrick's will host. We will follow the same format we used in 2023.

Fr Berry praised the Easter Egg Hunt's success and emphasised the importance of linking it for the children with attending mass. The Little Sisters expressed their gratitude to the parish for the donation of surplus Easter eggs.

Easter services were well attended, particularly the 10am Mass on Easter Sunday. The attendance was so high that approximately 30 parishioners overflowed into the church hall.

Post Easter Talks will resume in September due to summer Parish events.

Garden Party – Planned for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> of June, commencing at 11am after Mass, Helen will send out an email requesting volunteers for the event and will also do an announcement after Masses this weekend.

## **6. ORDINATION OF PAUL LAVERTY**

The ordination ceremony will be held on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June at 7:00 PM in St Andrew's Church, RSVP of number of attendees has been requested by 6<sup>th</sup> June. There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving at St Andrew's on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> of June at 7pm and Father Paul will also celebrate mass at St Joseph & St Patrick's at 7pm on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> of June, followed by tea, coffee and cake in the Church Hall.

Marcus will arrange readers for the June 30<sup>th</sup> Mass. Martin will buy Icons of St Joseph and St Patrick for Fr Laverty as a parish gift. Fr Berry will confirm the celebration arrangements.

## **7. UPDATE FROM PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Amey has repaired the strip at the car park entrance. Helen reported that the committee wishes to update parishioners on the work of the Property Management Committee. The Committee wishes to relaunch the Building Fund with parishioners and will raise this at the next Finance Committee meeting.

## **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025– 7pm in the Parish Hall

Apologies in advance were given by John Wilson

## **9. A.O.C.B**

Anne Clark announced the Annual Ladies Fashion Show for Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Martin McCauley asked the review of Inverclyde parishes had been mentioned at the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Helen reported that these are held twice a year – November and June and it was not discussed at the last meeting. Fr Berry noted that the development at the former Inverkip Power Station and IBM sites, with approximately 1,000 houses in total, will swell parish numbers. He highlighted the Parish Council's role in providing access to Catholic education. Marcus Barry offered to discuss this matter with the local Councillor.

The meeting ended at 8pm, and Helen thanked everyone for their attendance.

Next meeting: Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> June at 7 pm