

St Philomena's Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Date: 25.08.26

In attendance: Father John, Julie, Peter, George, Janice, Emenda, Margaret

		Action
1	Opening Prayer led by Fr John	
2	Apologies: George	
3	Minutes of meeting on 17 February 2026 Accepted p.s. The meeting of 21 April 2026 had been cancelled because of call-offs	
4	Matters Arising: The May Procession had been a success, and will now hopefully continue as a tradition. It is an excellent opportunity to draw parish and school together. The leaders of the May Procession were thanked for their work.	May Procession to become a tradition at St Philomena's
5	Centenary Project Update Steady Progress is being made in the planning leading up to starting work on the Church. There are on-going negotiations with 2 Government funding agencies. Tenders are being sought from 2 suppliers for each part of the work. We have now got a costing for secondary glazing which will significantly cut down heat loss and have a positive impact on heating bills. The next important step is to receive a heat audit from Business Energy Scotland. This will allow us to see what external funding we may be eligible for. In the meantime, continued parish fund-raising is very important. See item 7	Centenary Group continue to meet monthly and progress planning for the work on the Church
6	Parish Groups 1. Bereavement This group met for the first time last week. Initially it will have 3 strands 1. Offer of support visits, (Safeguarding through Karen/Julie) 2. A regular Monthly mass dedicated to praying for the departed and the bereaved. 3. The annual mass for the departed for which the group would provide input. Deacon Douglas will lead the group. Julie inquired about bereavement training and suggested that the organisation Cruise could be a useful source for the group. There was discussion of a Grief Cafe. Cruise could also potentially provide bereavement training.	Bereavement group to consider input from Cruise.

	2. Children's Sacraments Preparation There are 4/5 people who are interested in providing support to children from outside Catholic schools who wish to receive sacraments. The group will meet soon and a programme will be drawn up focussing on 1st Communion and Confirmation. Julie said that there are good Resources online, e.g. on Archdiocesan website. 3. Fr John spoke about a 'Massport' system which he hopes to introduce in January. The details are to be worked out, but would include getting a stamp for every Sunday mass attendance. 4. There is a Pope Francis Award in the 2 primary schools. 5. Children's Liturgy need more volunteers. Julie is invited to speak to the congregation about CL volunteering at the end of a Sunday mass, with children's liturgy children supporting her.	Children's Sacraments group to meet soon and draw up the programme Julie and CL children to speak at the end of mass about volunteering with CL
7	Fundraising ideas Fr John has had a conversation with two recently arrived parishioners who have fundraising experience. He will now email them to invite them to propose ideas and possibly lead on fundraising initiatives. Two ideas were proposed: 1. Italian night (pasta and tiramisu) in October 2. Wreath Making Event in late November/early December We agreed to ask for 4 volunteers to help with each of these. Emenda (1) and Julie (2) would lead on these.	Fr John to email the new parishioners about fundraising. For Bulletin : Required: 4 helpers for Italian night Required: 4 helpers for wreath making event
8	Alternative Pilgrimage The proposed pilgrimage to Krakow did not get enough support. It is possible it was deemed too costly. We discussed alternative pilgrimages closer to home. 3 Ideas were suggested 1. Holy Island - a day trip, with mass on the island 2. Inchcolm Island – a day trip, with mass on the island. We would charter the boat. 3. Iona. This would be a 2/3 day trip. Fr John suggested this could be a Lenten Pilgrimage Fr John will raise these suggestions with Broxburn PPC. Possible dates and costs could then be drawn up.	Fr John to share ideas on pilgrimage with Broxburn PPC

9	AOCB 1. Membership of the group. ShonaMarie has indicated that she is stepping down from the PPC, due to other commitments. The group thank her for her valuable insights and contribution to the group over many years. We will miss her. We discussed extending the membership to 2 or 3 new additional members. A number of names were proposed. Margaret and Fr John will invite these proposed members. We agreed that a maximum of 10 members would be good. We also discussed having a youth representative on the PPC. 2. The Art Studio progressing well. 3. Janice suggested that both sides of the newsletter could be posted on Facebook (instead of just one side, as currently happens)	ShonaMarie to be asked to post both sides of the newsletter
10	Closing Prayer: Fr John	
11	Date of next meeting: 10 November 2026	