

# Parish of Saul & Ballee and Kilclief

## Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Time: 6.30pm

Location: Saul Parochial House Meeting Room

**Attendees:** Fr. A Brankin, Vivienne McCormick, Paul Kelly, Paul Fitzsimons, Tommy McCabe and Geraldine McVeigh.

**Chair:** Vivienne McCormick / **Vice Chair:** Post vacant / **Secretary:** Geraldine McVeigh.

**1. Apologies:** Rev. J. Breen

**2. Opening Prayer** led by Paul Kelly.

The Chairperson welcomed members to the May meeting saying it was special to see Pope Francis on Easter Sunday the day before his death. We wish Pope Leo well in his ministry and pray he will be guided by the Holy Spirit.

**3. Adoption of Minutes from previous Meeting** 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

The minutes from the above meeting were circulated to all members via email prior to tonight's meeting. All agreed and a proposal was made by Paul Kelly and seconded by Paul Fitzsimons to adopt the minutes as presented. The minutes were adopted and signed off by the Chairperson and Secretary. A copy will be held on file in the Parochial Office and a copy will be published on the Parish website and displayed on the Church noticeboard.

**- Action: Geraldine to email minutes to Parish secretary for publication on the Parish website.**

**- Action: Copy minutes to go on Church noticeboard.**

**4. Matters Arising**

- **Readers Training Day**

The Readers Training Day has now been arranged for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June at Tobar Mhuire. All Readers are requested to attend. Fr. John was to lead it so it may have to be rescheduled. A day for Eucharistic Ministers is to be arranged – it will be led by Fr. Brankin and Fr. Peter from Bright.

**- Action: Eucharistic Ministers Training Day to be arranged.**

- **Easter Ceremonies**

The Easter Ceremonies went well - they were well attended and there was a great atmosphere. Thanks were extended to Fr. Brankin, Jackie, Readers, Ministers of the Eucharist and all volunteers. Fr. Brankin is open to suggestions as to how the ceremonies can be improved in future.

**- Action: No action required.**

- **Pastoral Council Training**

Pastoral Council Training completed on 29<sup>th</sup> April. Vivienne has sent out slides provided following each of the training sessions.

**- Action: No action required.**

- **Cemetery Policy Terms of Reference**

Fr. Brankin feels there should be no graves available, in any of the parish cemeteries, to anyone outside the Parish. There will be a new Columbarium in the Convent chapel in Downpatrick. If we were to charge the suggested fee for the Columbarium at Saul it would need to be updated. Vivienne will change the terms of reference to show fees of £300 and £1000.

**- Action: Vivienne to update Cemetery Policy Terms of Reference.**

## **5. Saul Sunday/Sacred Heart Statue**

Saul Sunday will be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 3.00pm. Bishop Alan McGuckian will attend. One of the four statues blessed by Pope Francis will be on the mountain for Saul Sunday - we would like to make it a special event - we had originally planned a procession into Downpatrick after Mass on Saul Sunday, but the statue will now be brought back to the Church and stay there until Monday – we could leave the Church open afterwards and maybe have Adoration. The Knights of Columbanus will accompany the statue - the First Communicants will also attend. It is expected the statue will leave here on Monday morning.

**- Action: No action required.**

## **6. Youth Ministry**

A young person has spoken to Vivienne wanting to start a Youth Ministry in the parish. Vivienne has explained to him that such a Ministry would have to be for the Family of Parishes. He had wanted to use the FOCUS programme. The FOCUS mission is to invite youth evangelisation – they work through Dublin, Cork and QUB – they make connections and build up relationships with students - they raise them to become leaders. There are three or four different models. There are two people prepared to lead the sessions, and both are trained and quite competent. We would concentrate on 18 to 25 years old across the 5 parishes. Focus is trying to get into the diocese and Pathways are hoping to have bible studies, discipleship and group studies. There are separate male and female groups – we would need a female trained. There are 17 different themes - Vivienne has read through some of these - their website is [focusequip.org](http://focusequip.org) - the young man seems quite involved. Fr. Brankin would be anxious to start as soon as possible - we would need safeguarding training for the leaders. It was suggested the young people could use the Crypt in Downpatrick –

they would not need supervision. They plan to meet weekly for one hour. The young man has done posters to advertise the FOCUS group. If we get agreement from the family of parishes we can go ahead. Vivienne will speak to the girl who was interested to see if she wishes to go ahead. There is a third boy at university in Derry who is also interested but he may not be trained yet.

**- Action: Vivienne will keep us advised.**

## **7. Any other Business**

- **300 Club Draw.**

The draw will take place tomorrow.

**- Action: No action required.**

- **Parish Census.**

A census of attendance at Mass was taken recently but it may be a while before we get the diocesan results.

**- Action: No action required.**

- **Church Painting**

Fr. Brankin is getting quotes for painting the outside of the Church.

**- Action: No action required.**

- **Pilgrimage to Slemish**

There are a few seats left for the Pilgrimage to Slemish on 14<sup>th</sup> June – anyone wishing to go should contact Downpatrick Parish Office.

**- Action: No action required.**

- **Mass for students**

The special Mass for students sitting exams will be held on Friday 16th May.

**- Action: No action required.**

- **Family of Parishes**

The Family of Parishes meeting has been cancelled for tomorrow night.

**- Action: No action required.**

#### **8. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader**

The date of the next meeting will be **Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 6.30pm.** Prayer Leader will be Vivienne McCormick.

**9. Closing Prayer:** Meeting concluded with a closing prayer.