

Parish of Saul & Ballee and Kilclief

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: **Monday 9th June 2025**

Time: 6.30pm

Location: Saul Parochial House Meeting Room

Attendees: Fr. A Brankin, Jackie Breen, Vivienne McCormick, Tommy McCabe and Geraldine McVeigh.

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

1. Apologies: Paul Kelly

2. Opening Prayer led by Vivienne McCormick.

The Chairperson welcomed members to the meeting, the last before the summer recess. The last month has been busy with the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation as well as Saul Sunday and the Sacred Heart Procession. Vivienne extended thanks to all who had been involved ensuring that all went well.

3. Adoption of Minutes from previous Meeting 12th May 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 Tommy McCabe and seconded by Fr. Brankin 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/EMHC Training Day**

The Readers and Eucharistic Ministers training days have been postponed until September due to the absence of clergy.

- Action: No action required

- **Cemetery Policy Terms of Reference**

Fr. Brankin will bring the Cemetery Policy Terms of Reference before the Finance Committee. There are four definitions of a parishioner, and no non-parishioner can be buried in any of the cemeteries due to the shortage of space. The Terms of Reference were agreed - Fr. Brankin will run them past the people of Kilclief. Vivienne will pass it to Amanda to hold until it is passed by the people of Kilclief and then it can go out to parishioners. During the last week Amanda got a request for information from one of the undertakers about a niche in the columbarium and enquiring how many remains can go in a niche. Each niche will hold at least two remains, but the niches are being measured. The niches are leasehold – the length of the leasehold is not known.

- Action: Terms of Reference to go to Amanda to await agreement from Kilclief.

- **Student Mass 2025**

The Student Mass was held on 16th May. There was a good number of students at the Mass. Last year we worked with the Gaelic Club, and they came to the Mass.

- Action: No action required.

- **Saul Sunday/Sacred Heart Statue**

There was a good turnout - it was good to see the First Communicants there and it was special to have the Sacred Heart Statue. We could look at suggestions for next year. Jackie suggested maybe we could have a marquee with tea and refreshments, and we could have an ice-cream van as we have done in the past. The bishop is keen to keep the annual pilgrimage going. The Diocesan Novena to the Sacred Heart will run from 19th to 27th June, the Feast of the Sacred Heart.

- Action: No action required.

5. Youth Ministry

The Family of Parishes meeting gave the go ahead for the Youth Ministry. Jackie met with Cain to discuss the Youth Ministry. He would like to begin in Saul and will speak to young people after Mass and encourage them to join the group – Cain will promote it and is very enthusiastic. It will start small and should increase over time.

- Action: No action required.

6. Any other Business

- **Family of Parishes**

At the Family of Parishes meeting on 7th May the Youth Ministry was agreed. It was also agreed to postpone the Training days for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers until September. The next meeting of the Family of Parishes is on 9th September.

- Action: No action required.

- **Thomas Hampton**

Thomas Hampton will be ordained a Deacon next week. We will check if there is a webcam in St. Paul's Outside the Walls to enable parishioners to view the ordination. Thomas will be back in the parish after the Diaconate.

- Action: Jackie to check if webcam available.

- **Pilgrimage to Slemish**

There are still seats left for the Pilgrimage to Slemish on 14th June – anyone wishing to go should contact Downpatrick Parish Office. Angela Wilson will lead the prayers on the way up.

- Action: No action required.

- **Hearts on Fire Conference**

The Conference will commence on 24th June with Mass in St. Peter's Cathedral, Belfast followed on 25th June with various workshops at the Hilton Hotel, Belfast.

- Action: No action required.

- **Ardglass and Dunsford**

There are leaflets out promoting the Ardglass and Dunsford Mission which is on at 7.30 pm each night this week. Niall O'Hara was the speaker at the Mission last night.

- Action: No action required.

8. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be **Monday, 1st September 2025 at 6.30pm.** Prayer Leader will be Fr. Brankin.

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