

# Parish of Saul & Ballee

## Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: **Monday 22nd September 2025**

Time: 6.30pm

Location: Saul Parochial House Meeting Room

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

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

**1. Apologies:** Paul Kelly, Paul Fitzsimons and Jackie Breen.

**2. Opening Prayer** led by Fr. Brankin.

The Chairperson welcomed members to the first meeting following the summer recess. Condolences were extended to Paul's sister-in-law Angela on the death of his brother and to the family of Deacon Rev. Mark Lenaghan – they are all in our thoughts and prayers. We continue to pray for Canon Murray. We wish Fr. Henry well in his retirement. Fr. O'Neill is the new Parish Priest in Downpatrick - all meetings have been postponed for the time being. Fr. McCloskey is now on sabbatical.

**3. Adoption of Minutes from previous Meeting** 9<sup>th</sup> June 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 Fr. Brankin and seconded by Tommy McCabe 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 the next Family of Parishes meeting - Fr. O'Neill will do one training day and Fr. Brankin will perhaps do the other one.

**- Action: No action required**

- **Cemetery Policy Terms of Reference**

A meeting of the Finance Committee will be arranged to consider the Terms of Reference. There are two separate Finance Committees, one for Saul and one for Kilclief.

**- Action: Terms of Reference to go before the Finance Committees.**

- **Youth Ministry**

The Family of Parishes meeting gave the go ahead for the Youth Ministry. Cain was looking for young people at the Masses to talk about the Youth Ministry – he is now back at university and working and does not know if he will be able to commit but is to get back to Vivienne - he has not met with Fr O'Neill yet but Fr. Brankin would like it to go ahead.

**- Action: Cain to get back to Vivienne.**

- **Hearts on Fire Conference**

The Conference was held on 25 and 26<sup>th</sup> June with various workshops at the Hilton Hotel, Belfast. Fr. Brankin was at the Mass in St. Peter's Cathedral, Belfast the previous evening. The Pathways office have shared a link to the different workshops if anyone is interested.

**- Action: No action required.**

- **Rev. Thomas Hampton**

Thomas was ordained to the Diaconate on 16<sup>th</sup> June – Fr. Brankin, Jackie and several others were there. Over the summer he was in St. Paul's Parish, Belfast and did Baptisms here. His Ordination will be in Downpatrick and hopefully his first Mass will be in Saul – he will be a good asset to the diocese.

**- Action: No action required.**

- **Slemish Mountain**

The day of the Pilgrimage was extremely wet. Pilgrims were unable to climb Slemish but activities were held in the church hall, and it was an enjoyable day.

**- Action: No action required.**

## **5. Family Prayer Ministry**

The new P1 children have started in the school. Once they are settled Vivienne will send out forms for them to join the Family Prayer Ministry.

**- Action: Forms for Family Prayer Ministry to go to P1 children.**

## **6. Any other Business**

- **Family of Parishes**

The Family of Parishes meeting has been postponed until Fr. O'Neill, the new Parish Priest in Downpatrick, gets organised.

**- Action: No action required.**

- **Walk the Cross 2025**

The Walk the Cross Pilgrimage was held on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September – pilgrims walked 33km, one for each year of Jesus life. There was a good turnout leaving Saul with a big crowd on the Sunday in Belfast.

**- Action: No action required.**

- **Jubilee of Hope**

The Jubilee of Hope Youth Gathering will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> September in Clonard. This will be a time of prayer and reflection for young people led by Bishop Alan McGuckian. Vivienne is sending out information to the young people so they can attend.

**- Action: No action required.**

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

The date of the next meeting will be **Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 6.30pm.** Prayer Leader will be Geraldine McVeigh.

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