

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

Date of meeting: **Monday 20th October 2025**

Time: 6.30pm

Location: Zoom Meeting

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

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

1. Opening Prayer led by Geraldine McVeigh

The Chairperson welcomed members to the October meeting. Paul Fitzsimons thanked everyone for their support following his recent bereavement.

2. Adoption of Minutes from previous Meeting 22nd September 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 will be left in the Parish Office for signature by Fr. Brankin and Geraldine. 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.

3. Matters Arising

- **Cemetery Policy Terms of Reference**

The Cemetery Policy Terms of Reference were to be referred to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee met but it will be discussed at the next meeting – Kilclief and Saul are now separate parishes and can each make their own decisions.

- Action: Terms of Reference to be discussed by the Finance Committees.

- **Family Prayer Ministry**

Vivienne will now get forms for the Family Prayer Ministry out to the new Primary 1 class and will await replies and keep us updated.

Vivienne said it was good to have the enrolment of the P3's and P4's for First Confession and First Holy Communion, at the Sunday Mass in recent weeks – it was good to have them as part of the community and Fr. Brankin was pleased to see them at Mass this morning.

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

- **Youth Ministry**

Clonard Youth Ministry hosted the Diocesan Jubilee of Youth Gathering on 26th September. Many young people from the Chaplaincy at Queens and Coleraine University and from across the diocese came together for an evening of prayer, reflection and adoration. The response and input they had was beautiful and heartening to see.

- Action: No action required

4. November Mass for the deceased

The lists for the dead are out this weekend. We have the November Mass scheduled for Friday 21st November. Amanda will send out invites to families who have been bereaved during the past year. The November Mass is important, during a very difficult time for families, to show support as a community. Hopefully it will go well and be well attended.

- Action: Amanda to send out invites to bereaved families

5. Any other Business

- **Family of Parishes**

Fr. Brankin advised that no meetings are taking place in Downpatrick at present as Fr. Eugene O'Neill is on bereavement leave. Canon John Murray is doing well, and work has begun at the Parochial House in preparation for his return.

- Action: No action required.

- **Christmas Masses**

We will check the times of Masses last year and put this on the agenda for the next meeting. We would like to get the Mass times out as early as possible.

- Action: To go on Agenda for next meeting

- **Mark Lenaghan**

Jackie said the death of Deacon Mark Lenaghan was a big loss – he had worked together with Jackie. The new deacons have now been ordained on 5th October.

- Action: No action required.

- **Christmas Appeal**

In the past we have collected donations for the Morning Star Hostel in Belfast and last year donations were given to the Fountain Food Bank in Downpatrick – they are always looking for donations and there has always been a good response – we will look at this at the next meeting. We will also look at having a Carol Service. We could put together a competition for the school, which has always been quite popular with the children, or perhaps give them a hamper as a donation.

- Action: To go on Agenda for the next meeting

- **Ballycruttle and Carlin**

Fr. Brankin advised that work is being done in Ballycruttle and Carlin – new windows and painting will be done in the springtime and hopefully all will be done by Easter.

- Action: No action required.

7. Date of next meeting/Prayer Leader

The date of the next meeting will be **Monday, 17th November 2025 at 6.30pm.** Prayer Leader will be Paul Fitzsimons.

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