

SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 6th November 2025 in the LOUNGE at 8pm

MINUTES

William (in the Chair), Jude Mariadoss (taking minutes), Sr Dorothy Perrott, Teresa Engley, Maria Christopher, Deacon Julian Burling, Canon David Gibbons, Fr Edwin Raj, Fr Peter Frank, Rob Hitchcock (Faith Minister), Graham Kennedy, Annette Campbell-Black, Nina Beltran and Jose Garibaldi. Observing were James Bush representing Sacred Heart School.

Apologies were received from Rachel Purvis, Siobhan Heffron and Peter Taylor

Welcome, opening prayer and apologies

Opening Prayer – William

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by the chair. They will be uploaded to the website shortly.

2. Updates from Canon

The parish will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2027. There is a proposal to have a Parish Mission as part of the anniversary celebration. Parish mission is usually a week - long parish wide retreat that is run by Redemptorist Priests, offering an insight into an aspect of faith each day.

Bishop Nicholas Hudson has been appointed as the new Bishop of Plymouth. The installation ceremony will be on 29 November 2025. This may be live streamed.

George McLennan the parish caretaker has submitted his resignation as he will be retiring. A suitable replacement is to be sought. Alex, who runs a taekwondo club in the parish sometimes steps in to help when George is not available. However, Alex is only available on a part-time basis for up to 30 hours a week.

A provisional draft of the church repair work has been received. Regulatory application for Listed places of worship is to be submitted soon.

Fr Edwin Raj and Fr Peter Frank are settling in well in the parish

3. Be Well Hub

The 'Be Well Hub' continues to gain interest from parishioners. Graham is working on putting a strong foundation so it can be a fully functional 'Be Well Hub'. There is a need for volunteers to take it forward and share the effort that is required to be put in. There is a plan to get volunteers at the continental breakfast. 'Be Well Hub' has also been working alongside the 'Memory Lane' group which is a group for people with dementia and their carers. We require something like a job description for volunteering with the BWH so we can be sure of the requirements for suitable volunteers. There is a separate report from Graham that contains the update for 'Be Well Hub' and future plans.

4. Finance Committee

Based on the recent figures that were received, there seems to be no significant change in the collections and planned giving (standing instructions).

5. Halls Committee

The committee has identified areas of urgent work and a quote has been obtained. The Edge Hill Players have offered to replace the stage curtains.

6. SDS

Nina Beltran has agreed to become the Parish Lead for Formation.

7. PPC Matters

PPC mini retreat – Unfortunately the booking was not cancelled in time and deposit paid could not be returned. It has been decided that the retreat will now take place in the parish facilities on Saturday 14th March or 21st March 2026 (whenever the lounge is available). Action – Availability of the lounge to be checked with Thelma.

8. Updates from Rob (Faith Minister)

First Holy Communion preparation has started and is going well.

POD (Pocket of Disciples) Youth group has been relaunched. It meets every fortnight on a Tuesday.

Prayer and a pint – Group of young adults is going well.

9. Parish Social Life

Christmas Dinner will NOT go ahead this year in the parish. There is a plan to send out hampers to the house bound in the parish. Rob is working with Sacred Heart School to collect donations and getting the hampers ready for distribution. Request for donations from parishioners and parents of the school will be made. Beneficiaries of hampers will be discretely identified. The list can be prepared in consultation with SVP & Christian Care.

There is a proposal to hold a Parish Fund Raising Night on Friday 13th February 2026. A new Parish Social group is formed and are working on this, further updates expected in the next meeting.

Parish Groups – design for QR code is ready. Thanks to Sacred Heart School for their effort in getting it done.

10. Sacred Heart School

Children from year 5 & year 6 came to the parish for a workshop on Sacraments of Marriage and Religious life.

Sarah Norville, the new head teacher at Sacred Heart is settling in well, she can be invited to the PPC in the new year.

11. AOB

Youth 2000 is coming back to the parish in Jan 2026. The programme was a huge success in 2025. It is open for registration for youth between the age of 18 – 35 years.

PPC Secretary – a new secretary is to be recruited as Rachel will be stepping down from the PPC

12. Date of Next Meeting

Next PPC meeting will be on Thursday 4th December in the lounge.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PPC Meetings Thurs 8th January- Lounge

5th February -Lounge

Friday 13th February Parish Fundraising Dinner

Thursday 5th March- Youth Room

Thursday 2nd April -Lounge

Thursday 7th May- Lounge

Thursday 4th June -Lounge

Thursday 2nd July- Lounge

Thursday 3rd September-Lounge

Thursday 1st October-Lounge

Thursday 5th November

Thursday 3rd December