



# Sacred Heart Wimbledon Parish Pastoral Council

**Minutes of PPC Meeting**  
Thursday 8 January 2026 at 8pm

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## **Members in attendance**

The PPC members present were William Morris (*in the Chair*), Canon David Gibbons (*Parish Priest*), Fr Edwin Raj (*Assistant Priest*), Fr Peter Mudu Frank (*Assistant Priest*), Deacon Julian Burling, Sr Dorothy Perrott, Rob Hitchcock (*Faith Minister*), Jerric Chong (*PPC Secretary*), James Bush, Maria Christopher, Teresa Engley, Jose Garibaldi, Graham Kennedy, Jude Mariadoss, Peter Taylor and Chris Woodward.

David Hurst attended as an observer.

## **1. Welcome and opening prayer**

The PPC met at 8:03pm in the Lounge.

The opening prayer was said by William.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Nina Beltran, Annette Campbell Black, Henry Gates and Siobhán Heffron.

## **3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The draft minutes of the previous PPC meeting, held on Thursday 4 December 2025, were accepted as an accurate record (subject to one amendment), to be uploaded on the parish website.

## **4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

## 5. Pastoral care (including the Be Well Hub update)

Graham reported with an update on the parish's Be Well Hub plans. Approval for Be Well activities was received from the Archdiocese of Southwark this very morning, and the Be Well champions are planning to restart this Sunday (11 January). An item will go in the newsletter to advertise this fact.

The Be Well celebration breakfast has been pencilled in to take place on Sunday 8 March. One or two more volunteers (in addition to William Morris and David Hurst) are needed to make that happen successfully. From a meeting with Merton Citizens, it was noted that stigma holds people back from coming forwards for help from the Be Well Hub, particularly from the Black and Brown communities – so people from those backgrounds would be welcome. The tasks to be done are to finalise promotional activities and plan for the celebration breakfast, help volunteers for breakfast, order St Dymphna medals for Be Well champions, and deciding whether to offer breakfast to parish groups.

The celebration breakfast would be in addition to the existing continental breakfast after the 10am Mass. Although the current continental-breakfast team are new to the job, they have been spoken to and are aware of these plans. The breakfast would be an opportunity to raise awareness of the Be Well Hub and its work. The target is to have a continental breakfast where more people come, and formally to tell the parish what we hope to achieve, as well as to invite local mental-health professionals to see what the parish are doing in this regard.

Chris remarked that the celebration breakfast would enfranchise 10am Mass goers in particular, and asked whether other Mass goers would be targeted. Will clarified that the breakfast will be specifically after the 10am, but a newsletter notice will go out, as well as a parish appeal, in advance. Perhaps this could be an incentive for people to get up earlier? The breakfast after the 8am is unrelated to this event.

## 6. Evangelization

Rob reported that evangelization was going well. Applications for confirmation are closed. There is a plan this year to introduce young leaders into the confirmation programme.

Canon David reported that he had been contacted by Channel 5 News, who were thinking of doing a piece on the influx of young people/men to the Church. They were going to film in the church on the Epiphany, but ultimately decided not to do so. Canon David did, however, give an interview (not for broadcast) about the observed influx of young people. It seems to be partly a result of social media and WhatsApp groups, and the parish's online presence.

Sr Dorothy reported that the phenomenon persists here every Monday – they come either not knowing anything or being well read, and come looking for stability. They fill out the website form and come – it is a flourishing apostolic mission.

All Christmas Masses (except the 8am) were standing room only.

## 7. Catechesis

On the topic of cell groups or home groups, Jude stated that there is a plan with Rob to form a pilot scheme of small groups.

As part of the parish's Lent programme, there is an idea to have lectures on the anniversary of the Council of Nicaea – this would need to be organised quite promptly. Nina was planning to run Bishop Barron's *Catholicism* course during Lent. It would be quite informal, discussing at tables. Another recommended programme is *Pilgrimage with Simon Reeve*.

## 8. Adult formation

Will reported that Youth 2000's London Retreat is to be held in the parish on Saturday 24 January. Plans for the event are progressing nicely. The headline talk will be given by Fr Pius Collins OPraem, and the keynote talk by Edmund Adamus. Sign-ups are currently at the 100 mark and should speed up towards the deadline. This weekend is the parish appeal, when organisers will appeal (1) to people between 18 and 35 to sign up for the retreat; (2) to older people to bake cakes to nourish the young people; (3) for financial help to contribute to the event.

Henry has emailed the PPC with a questionnaire on evangelization, catechesis and formation to think about collectively. All PPC members are requested to complete the questionnaire (it takes only about 10 minutes) – it will form a large part of February's PPC meeting, and possibly also the retreat day in March. Peter can collate questions on this to be passed on to Henry.

## 9. Matters from the Parish Priest

Fr Peter and Canon David had a useful session with Sarah Norville (Headteacher of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School). To build links with the school, Fr Peter will visit every Wednesday, have conversations with RE teachers to support them, and possibly hear confessions from teachers and students. Half of the teachers are Catholics. Sarah has agreed to involve prayer leaders from the parish to talk about the church and its statues to school students.

Canon David reported that the church heating stopped working on the day that George (the former caretaker) retired. One engineer identified a sensor problem that

was registering the temperature as 145°, and a temporary fix has been implemented. The new caretaker, Leo (from Morden), will take over towards the end of the month.

#### **10. AOB**

Annette has kindly agreed to make some cakes in advance of the PPC mini-retreat. Dietary requirements are requested to be communicated to her in advance. The programme begins with Mass at 10am and ends with lunch at 1pm (members may leave before this).

The three Rorate Masses held in December 2025 were highly commended. They had an average attendance of 53 or 54 people, which was noteworthy given that they started at 6:30am on Mondays and were organised without having to cancel any other Masses on the day. It is worth digesting internally that morning Masses are quite popular. The Mass drew a slightly different demographic than usual, e.g. young professionals, and were advertised widely outside the parish, for instance on [catholicevents.co.uk](http://catholicevents.co.uk).

William reported that Richard Moth (Archbishop-elect of Westminster) visited Favre House on 22 November, and is a very nice man. We hope and pray that he will be a blessing to Westminster.

Canon Gerard Bradley has been announced as a new auxiliary bishop of Southwark. He used to go to St Philomena's Catholic High School for Girls to celebrate Mass, and did great work with the girls there. He would like to celebrate Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School in the summer term.

The April 2026 PPC meeting, scheduled for Thursday 2 April, would coincide with Holy Thursday (2 April) and follow quite soon after the PPC mini-retreat. This meeting was therefore accordingly cancelled.

Matteo and William will feed back in next month's meeting on social media, and talk about subgroups thereafter. Ideas on subcommittees remain welcome to Will.

Next Wednesday 14 Jan, the parish will host 14 or 15 Merton Citizens in the Lounge. Topics for discussion will include the Be Well Hub, housing, the Living Wage, and Merton as a Borough of Sanctuary. An invitation is extended to Fr Peter and Fr Edwin in particular.

Sarah Norville will attend next meeting on Rob's invitation.

#### **11. Closing prayer and date of next meeting**

Deacon Julian led the PPC in the Lord's Prayer and imparted his blessing.

The PPC adjourned at 8:43pm until Thursday 5 February at 8pm.

### **Forthcoming meetings and events**

- **Thursday 5 February 2026 at 8pm** – PPC meeting (Lounge)
- **Thursday 5 March 2026 at 8pm** – PPC meeting (Youth Room)
- **Saturday 21 March 2026 at 10am** – PPC mini-retreat
- *No PPC meeting in April 2026*
- **Thursday 7 May 2026 at 8pm** – PPC meeting (Lounge)
- **Thursday 4 June 2026 at 8pm** – PPC meeting (Lounge)
- **Thursday 2 July 2026 at 8pm** – PPC meeting (Lounge)
- *No PPC meeting in August 2026*
- **Thursday 3 September 2026 at 8pm** – PPC meeting (Lounge)
- **Thursday 1 October 2026 at 8pm** – PPC meeting (Lounge)
- **Thursday 5 November 2026 at 8pm** – PPC meeting (Lounge)
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