

St Joseph's Birtley Church Pastoral Council
Notes of the meeting held 8th March 2026 in the Presbytery.

The meeting opened with a prayer led by PP.

Present: Fr Martin, Doreen Cantwell, Jan Rafalski, Hilda Fraser, Catherine Tumelty, Pauline Pestell, Tom Quigley, Margaret Taylor, Pauline Lavery, Peter Monaghan, Mick Davison.

Apologies: Shirley Ennis, Bernadette and Gary Bartlett.

Arrangements for Holy Week and Easter.

Times of services – Holy Thursday 7pm
 Good Friday 3pm
 Easter Vigil 5pm
 Easter Sunday 10am

Fr MW would contact John Sexton about organising the liturgy.

Two people are being received into the church at the vigil, one of whom will be baptised.

Wyn Thompson had already asked existing readers about availability and would put lists at the back of church.

Anne Welsh would be asked about eucharistic ministers.

The meeting then moved onto the main item on the agenda – **PASTORAL STRATEGY.**

Fr MW shared some items of information from the parish data pack which had been provided by the diocese. There was a discussion around several topics –

As a parish are we able to sustain and offer lay ministries? Do we have the relevant committees in place?

The financial position of the parish. Where does St. Joseph's Birtley belong?

CT asked about the situation with the Parish Hall. MD said that with some slight adaption to the alarm system this could be assessed separately from the Parish Centre. **MD would get a quote for doing this and hopefully the Youth Club could then continue to use the hall. Heating is controlled independently. MD would also look into a way of dividing off the space being retained for parish use.**

There has been some discussion about leasing the Parish Centre but nothing has been finalised.

Fr Martin left the meeting.

The Parish Council then discussed how we would ensure that all parishioners were able to contribute to the Parish Report which must be submitted by 23rd April.

Weekend 14th March – Before mass CT will give a short introduction to what is required by the parish. Everyone will receive a letter and a summary of the information we need to gather around the headings Worship, Serve, Teach, Community. MD would contact Amy Cameron to obtain the summary.

People will have the opportunity to attend a meeting in the Parish Centre

- 17th March after the 7pm mass
- 19th March after the noon mass

Tea/coffee to be available (MT).

Jim Taylor will create an email address to allow people to give opinions/thought electronically. (MT)

There would be a box at the back of church for people to put written feedback into. (PP)

All returns to be completed by 9th April so that the Parish Council can draw them together at their next meeting on 12th April.

The meeting closed with a prayer. PP.

Next meeting Sunday 12th April. Prayers CT.

Rota for Saturday Mass – Mar 28th PM, April 11th JR, 18th MT, 25th TQ, May 2nd PP, 9th CT, 16th PL.