

St. Joseph's Birtley Parish Council Meeting 10th May 2026.

Minutes.

Present. Fr MW., PP, PL, TQ, JR, PM, MD, HF, MJ

1. Opening prayer (PL).
2. Apologies – MT, CT, DC.BA
3. Minutes of the last meeting.

MD confirmed Mission Discernment documentation has been submitted to the diocese.

Mass is now being recorded and is presently being streamed on Youtube after Mass

Next steps in the Mission Discernment process. (MD).

Fr MW and MD attended a meeting at St Michael's, Houghton le Spring at which the Bishop was present. Most parishes that had submitted their returns were very much in line with ours. The need for more lay led ministries ie Services of Word and Communion, visiting the sick etc. Also the need to involve the youth of the Parish in any way possible.

The next step has been postponed to 15th July to allow more time to take action. In each case the Partnership Chair (MD) and Dean (at present Fr Michael Griffiths) will be present at the discussions. Action plan to be discussed for the next 3,6,9 months. The amalgamation of Birtley and Gateshead was discussed and Fr Chris Warren said he would be happy to work with Birtley. .

Management arrangements for Parish Hall.

Fr MW to have meeting with diocesan surveyor to confirm what work is needed in the Parish Hall to make it safe to use. PL has had a request from a Slimming Club to make use of the Youth Wing on a Tuesday and Thursday. A weekly rent will be paid. PL to meet with the client to see if the premises will be suitable

The role of the Finance committee and their responsibilities.

PL asked what the roles of the Finance Committee were. Do they have the responsibility of counting/ banking the money etc. . JR was not sure of this but there is a meeting on Friday 15th May with someone from the finance department from the diocese. PL to attend

Also the need for a Card Machine would benefit the finances of the parish as very few people carry cash. Fr MW to enquire with the diocese as this has already been requested by the Parish

Parish Newsletter. (PL).

Washington are no longer printing the Parish newsletter- due to costs. It was agreed that PL would print St Joseph's News and that pages 1&2 of the Parish newsletter will be printed by CT and a team of volunteers

Fr MW had to leave as he was unwell

Sub-groups and what we need. (PP).

It was discussed the possibility of having sub groups in the parish for organising the parish Hall refurb, Liturgy, Young Adults, communication, fund raising etc. PP asked that the PPC consider what was needed and discuss at our next meeting

Future Parish events.

First Holy Communions, St Joseph's, Saturday 16th May 10am, St Benet's Saturday 13th June 10am.

Also, the possibility of an Outdoor Mass or Family Picnic was suggested

A.O.B.

There is a great concern over the security of the presbytery door into the house. TQ noticed the front door open last Wednesday afternoon at about 3pm. He checked inside the house and no one was present. Also, the steps leading up the church are still unsafe and the pallbearers at Harry Hattam's funeral had to use the side ramp which was quite problematic for them.

Volunteer for next meetings prayers. PP

Date of next meeting 14th June