

# Minutes of St Mary, St John Bosco & St Edward's

## Pastoral Parish Council Meeting

held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025

1) Fr. John opened the meeting with a prayer.

2) **Those present:** Fr. John; Okiemute Ekwevugbe (Vice-Chair); Hilari Chetwood (Secretary); Keith Betteridge; Ann Clarke; Chris Mason

**Apologies received from:** Helen Ladkin; Tom Mendes; Theresa Mendes; Lynne Ryan;

3) **Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

It was noted that Chris Mason was present at the meeting.

The minutes were then agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4) **Actions arising from the previous meeting:**

- **Update on the amalgamation:**

- Fr. John reported that the information had been duly presented to the Diocese. This time it has been returned as they wish to have it in a different order!

- **Update on the Mission Enabling Fund:**

- Fr. John reported that there is currently no further information. We await contact from the Diocese soon, as our deferred start date is in January 2026.

**ACTION:**

- Theresa Wheeliker to kindly re-order the evidence for the amalgamation and re-submit to the Diocese as soon as possible.

**Review of, and discussion of, reports previously submitted to the meeting:**

**1: Catechesis, evangelisation and propagation of the Gospel.**

- **Individualised catechesis.**

- Hilari reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the **1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion** course has concluded. Instead of holding a special session for the children to make their 1<sup>st</sup> Confessions, Fr. John has asked that they attend one of the usual times for confession across the churches. The parents have been given a list of these! Fr. John has named certificates to give to the children when they attend, so we will know who hasn't.
- Unusually, this year we have eight children who have not been Baptised. Four of them were baptised last Sunday at St. Mary's, one will be baptised at a Mass in Holy Cross school, another will be baptised in St. John Bosco. We are still in discussions with the family of the final two sisters.
- **The Confirmation group** has now grown to fourteen children. Their attendance is excellent, and the majority are already involved in church life.
- There are four more sessions to go, with the Bishop attending to give them the sacrament on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026.
- **RCIA:** Fr. John reported that he is in contact with around eight people who have expressed interest in joining the church. Around three or four attend each of the weekly sessions.

- Fr. John explained how he expects the individualised catechesis to work next year. The skill will be in matching the right catechist to each family.

### **ACTIONS:**

- Start planning, then implementing, the advertising of the new courses early in the New Year.

## **2. Liturgy, and the spiritual life of the Parish:**

- **St Mary's Church birthday:** We need someone to lead this initiative.  
Hilari will put a bit in the bulletin.
  - Fr. John is disappointed that only a few people have brought in photos of the history of the church
  - Mitchell asked how we could get the word more 'out there'.
  - It was noted that we have so many relatively new people in the Parish, they do not have any historical evidence.
- **St. Edward's Patronal Feast:** Ann reported that this was a very happy event. The congregation were very grateful to St. Mary's choir for leading the music. The bacon butties were up to their usual high standard!!
- **Feast of the Assumption:** the Eucharistic Ministers from all three churches enjoyed the meal provided for them. Thanks were expressed to the kitchen for the excellent food. Fr. John said that it was nice to have time to chat and get to know each other better.
- **Advent reflections:** these will be held in St. Edward's church every Monday during Advent from 6pm.
- **The Parish Advent carol service** will take place again this year with the 1<sup>st</sup> HC and the Confirmation candidates. It will be on 13<sup>th</sup> December in St. Mary's, starting at 4pm and followed by mince pies in the hall.

### **ACTIONS:**

- Another push to get information into the community domain.
- Mementos to be ordered.
- Advertise Advent reflections and 9 Lessons and Carols.

## **3. Pastoral care, safeguarding, community activities:**

- **St Vincent De Paul ( SVP):**
  - Another meeting of the new volunteers for an SVP group in the parish was held last night at St Edward's. Six were in attendance. Joe ran a safeguarding training session for them. He will now organise DBS approval for them through SVP. Fr. John has been speaking to Fr Philip at St Thomas More, as they are starting a group too. It might be useful to combine the groups as it would be easier to cover the admin roles. Ten people attended the initial meeting at St Thomas More and eight signed up. It remains to be seen if they wish to join with us.
- **Social committee:**
  - Keith reported that the **Christmas Fayre** was more successful than might have been expected as the weather was so atrocious. Thanks were expressed to the premises officer as he worked to support and help us all day on Friday, and was a brilliant Santa at the event. Albert was also singled out for his willingness to help with anything that needed doing, especially working the music machine! The final

- total was: £2,769. Rita's pram raffle made a particularly good amount of money, and the friendship group donated £100. Thanks to everyone who helped.
- **St. Edward's Christmas Fayre:** Ann reported that £1,080 was raised in total. They were grateful for the items donated to them after the other Christmas Fayre the previous week. Several people from the local area came in which was lovely.
  - **The quiz night** was a fun evening – Pat Cooper showed great knowledge!
  - **NEXT EVENT: Pub Night with The Blue Beacons**, aka: Brendan and Danny. This will take place over the February half term, 2026. We need prices for the chip supper as soon as possible so that we can advertise tickets. Keith noted that someone he knew did a similar thing and got a mobile chip van in. He will investigate this.
  - **Safeguarding:** Hilari reported the annual audit has come through. It has to be completed by the end of January.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- The social committee to find prices, print tickets, and advertise the Pub Night
- Hilari to complete the SG audit and submit to Fr. John, before forwarding it to the Diocese.

#### **4. Ecumenical relationships:**

- **Churches together, South Wigston:**
  - As the Churches in South Wigston, apart from us, do not have enough members to hold the joint Advent carol service, we have invited those who wish to, to join our choir for our Advent Carol service or, if they are no longer able to attend practices in the evening, to come along to the event to join in. Posters and fliers to that effect were sent out to all the churches. They were very grateful and several expressed their intention of doing so.
- **Aylestone:**
  - Ann confirmed that a joint carol service would take place in the Baptist church on 13<sup>th</sup> December, and that Carols in the Park - or pub in inclement weather – will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

#### **ACTION:**

- Put a notice about the Churches Together events in the newsletter.

#### **5. Parish admin: finance and buildings:**

- **Finance:** The finance committee reported that the finances continue to run smoothly.
- **Buildings:**
  - **St John Bosco presbytery:** A suitable family has not yet come forward to rent the Presbytery. The price is an issue with many. It was agreed this is not the best time of year to rent out, but we will review the situation in the New Year. Thanks to Amanda and Pat for supervising the situation.
  - **St. Edward's:** We are still awaiting a second quote for the necessary works. Quotes have been received from the Johnson's for the roof of the presbytery (£7,000), and turning round the church door (£3,000). As the Johnson's have worked for us before, the Diocese is happy for us to just get a second quote rather than the usual three.

- **Heating contract:** A question was asked about who holds the heating contract for the churches and halls. No-one was sure, Fr. John will find out for the next meeting.

**ACTIONS:**

- Review the letting of St John Bosco Presbytery in the New Year.
- Award the contract for the work at St Edward's.
- Fr John to look into the heating contract/s.

**Final prayer:** Okiemute closed the meeting with a prayer and Fr. John gave us a blessing.

**Next meeting:** Thursday      29th January 2026, 7.30 pm at St Mary's hall.