

St Anne Line Catholic Church

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 18th June 2025 – 7.00pm – St Anne Line Parish Hall

Attendees:

Patrick Shiel – Chairperson

Fr Barto

Tina Marrai

Jacinta Balchin – Minute Secretary

Paddy Frew

Greg Eglin

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies: Rev Alan, Noreen Payton, Damian O'Connor, Juliette Balchin has now moved from the area for work and will not be able to attend every meeting.
3. Minutes of last meeting held on 25th Feb 2025 were noted and agreed.
4. Matters arising are covered in the committee reports below. JB asked Greg if he could come back on two points raised in the last meeting by Mike Eggleton.
 - a. Finance – Paddy provided a review of the accounts for the year ending 5th April 2025 which were previously circulated.
 - i. For the year ended 5th April, the Parish's general fund had a surplus of £5,662 and the designated funds a surplus of £3,858 giving a total surplus of £9,520.
 - ii. The accumulated funds carried forward at 5 April 2025 were £181,440 (5 April 2024: £171,920) and comprised the general fund of £154,588 (5 April 2024: £148,926) and designated funds of £26,852 (5 April 2024: £22,994). The funds were represented by cash at bank and on deposit.
 - iii. The accounts have been submitted to the diocese and Paddy expressed thanks to Anne Chin for all her help over the year. The accounts show a healthy financial position at year end.
 - iv. Total Income, excluding legacies, has increased over the comparative period thanks to an increase in offertory collections and hall bookings. Gift Aid Refunds outstanding at the year-end are expected in the coming year.
 - v. Total Expenditure is comparatively lower due to lower premises costs.
 - vi. The budget for 2025/26 has been submitted to the diocese. This currently shows a deficit of £73,000 which includes the projected exceptional costs for the car park, porch and front path as well as smaller day to day items.
 - b. Youth Update – Jacinta provided a brief update on planned Youth activities.
 - i. Youth activity (11-18) has been limited over the last year due to absence, but it is planned that activities will recommence from the autumn.
 - ii. Instead of having ad hoc SVP Youth Sessions, from September it is hoped that a monthly youth group can meet.

It is proposed that the first meeting will be on Saturday 6th September and will include reference to the season of creation and be open to all young people of secondary school age.

- iii. There are potentially 5 confirmation candidates based on the number of children that are known to want to be confirmed at St Anne Line in 2026. The bishop will be visiting for this, and the date will be confirmed in November. Forms and advance notice will be arranged for the newsletter in good time.
- iv. Jacinta circulated a document prepared for consideration in relation to parishioners leaving a legacy to the Parish and how this would support the Parish.

After some discussion on content and style, it was agreed that this would be amended and recirculated.

- c. Fr Barto provided a brief update to the Council.
 - i. To cover the buildings and maintenance item in the absence of Damian: Fr confirmed that the car park resurfacing is complete and new chairs purchased for the Parish Hall. The old chairs and trolley have been donated to a church in Canvey Island. Mass was celebrated on 8th June for the Parish in exchange. Items to now consider include the renovation of the porch, the front pavement and works in the presbytery. Damage to the glass in the hall window needs a new contact as the original company is no longer operating.
 - ii. Fr Barto thanked Tina for all her work helping the Parish celebrate the feast of St Anne Line and St Patricks Day.
 - iii. During Lent, there was comparatively poor participation in Stations of the Cross but very good participation during Holy week and over the Easter weekend and a good Parish turn out for the “Churches Together” gathering.
 - iv. The Parish has had 1 adult baptism and 3 RCIA confirmations at the Pentecost vigil. For the sacrament of Holy Communion, there are 19 children in total, 8 of whom are from the Romanian community. The feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be celebrated by the Romanian community on 29th June. All are very welcome.
 - v. There will be a meeting next week for the Children’s Liturgy which is planned to start in September.
 - vi. The Parish currently has 14 altar servers with 2 new ones due to start.
 - vii. As part of a mission at St Anne Line, the Redemptorists will be welcomed in early September.
 - viii. Recent collections have been very well received with nearly £1,300 raised for Aid to the Church in Need, and £2,100 for the Kenyan Mary’s Meals project in June.
 - ix. In September, the blessing and presentation of the PPC will take place. JB offered to help with individual role photos for the website if needed.
 - x. The Franciscan Friars will celebrate mass on the first weekend of advent.

- xi. The council discussed the recent discussions and written proposal received by Fr Barto in relation to Francisco's work as organist at St Anne Line.

The Council discussed the current position and the questions that had been raised, and it was agreed that Fr Barto and Patrick would look into this further and revert directly back to Francisco.

- d. Parish Social – Tina provided an update.
 - i. Current plans include:
 - BBQ on 5th July – this has been scaled down due to limited volunteers.
 - Quiz Night – 18th October
 - Bazaar – 30th November
 - Nativity – 20th December
- e. SVP
 - i. It was confirmed that support was provided predominantly from referrals and ongoing individual visits.
- f. Justice & Peace – Greg provided a brief update
 - i. Meeting proposed for September / October to organise items for Laudato Si and activities for the Season of Creation. Website update also needed to be considered. Greg has spoken briefly with Mike E on this.
 - ii. A number of projects such as Pax Christi, Missio and Aid to the Church in Need already set up and need to add pages on website. Christian CND also being considered.
 - iii. Assisted Dying Bill had attracted a lot of attention and lots of people writing in.

5. Concluding Prayer

6. Dates for next meetings – Tuesday 7th October 2025 at 7.40pm

Meeting concluded at 9.40pm