

Parish Forum, 19.10.25 Twenty parishioners were present. Special thanks to Lena who was chairperson and Myriam who took the minutes.

Reports from the groups:

1. **Choir.** The 10.30am Choir appeals for new members. **Would you like to be a part of the Choir?**
2. **Tiny Church.** The numbers of children taking part has grown, sometimes there are 25 children. This means that the room is not big enough for the group. The Tiny Church leaders suggest splitting the group into young and older children, with one group using another space. But this depends upon new leaders coming forward. **Would you like to assist with Tiny Church?**
3. **Finance.** The annual finance report was again presented. The figures for the year ending April 2025 show that we have a deficit of just over £9,000.
4. **The Council of Ministries.** This team is seeking to build itself on the vision contained in the 2020 document of the Holy See, 'The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community'. To date the Council is looking at developing the coordination of groups and interior communication links. The Council has also made a SWOT analysis of the 'community' dimension of the parish. Its minutes have already been made available to parishioners.

The management of Sunday Second Collections.

Lynne has brought together a small team who have developed a simple policy for coordinating the various requests for appeals that the parish receives. This will be very helpful in coordinating the dates of appeals, avoiding donor fatigue, and requesting more accountability from charities.

Presently we don't have a parish Cafod representative, and this was the third Forum at which an appeal was made for volunteers to take up this role. **Would you like to be a Cafod rep?**

We also spoke about the Diocesan 'Love Christmas' campaign, but the meeting decided that we should put our support into the SVP pre-Christmas endeavour, as this will enable the parish to support people in our immediate area.

Safeguarding.

Dale, our parish Safeguarding Officer, spoke about how all members of the parish should be aware of the basic safeguarding requirements established by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency. This enables us to ensure the safety and integrity of the parish and parishioners. Also, that all volunteer or paid staff who work with children, vulnerable adolescents, and vulnerable adults, must have DBS clearance.

1. All groups and activities in the parish must have adequate Safeguarding protocols and supervision.
2. The parish should have a Safeguarding library-style resource to individuals and groups to consult.

Dale has undertaken this role for many years now and would like to hand over the role to another. The role could be undertaken by a small team, rather than by one person alone. **Would you like to undertake the role of Safeguarding Officer (with others)?**

Hall Management.

We are grateful to John who undertakes the main burden of work, for the parish, in monitoring, resourcing, and enabling hall users. However, John is not able to resolve all the issues that arise, many of which remain unattended. Also, the parish precinct is susceptible to abuse, abuse which is then tolerated by us. A very important factor in this, is that the parish itself uses the hall is very little. The question of how we could develop the hall management was raised in the meeting. We suggested that a team of parishioners be created to approach this matter in a fuller way.

The Christmas Fayre. The Fayre has been run for some years on the lines of a Car Boot sale. The meeting was happy to the Fayre to be run again in this way, and a new team of parishioners will manage the Fayre this year. Details have been placed in the newsletter.