

MINUTES OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

OUR LADY OF LOURDES (AYLESBURY)

Tuesday 12th May 2026 7pm

Present:

Fr Jais
Fr Jerome
Carole Paternoster
Mary Harding
Nancy Kasenza
Sr Bernadette
Peter Donnelly
Clive Gallagher
Sean Brannon

Apologies:

Michael Lowry
Gerrardine Goulding
Elaine Sidhu (Parish Administrator)

The meeting opened with the parish prayer.

2. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Michael Lowry, Gerrardine Goulding and Elaine Sidhu (Parish Administrator)

Welcome:

The PPC welcomed Fr Jerome to OLOL and to the Aylesbury Parish. Fr Jais was welcomed back from his annual leave.

3. Minutes:

Minutes of PPC meeting held on 20th January 2026. There were no queries arising which were not on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

4. Combined Aylesbury Parish:

Fr Jais reported that, with the arrival of Fr Jerome, this would now be going ahead as planned. Some Mass timings were under review. The separate PPCs and Finance Committees would not be combined at the moment.

5a. OLOL Hall:

- **Bookings:** In her written report Elaine stated that the number of bookings is steady, mainly for parties or for religious meetings/events. One non-payment had to be written off, therefore payment is now requested before the date of the event and the keycode is only released once this payment has been received. PPC members agreed that the key code should be changed every three months. Mary Harding, Nancy Kasenza and Vilma to be notified via WhatsApp because they require regular access to the Hall for Church events. On Sundays, due to tea and coffee being available in the Hall after Mass, bookings will not be taken until 12.30pm. It was agreed that Elaine should not be expected to show people around the Hall in her own time. Therefore, Sean Brannon will create a page on the website where all this information will be available. **ACTION: Elaine, SB.**
- PPC members were asked to try to increase bookings for the Hall. Clive to approach the Hall rental company used by the Diocese. **ACTION: CG, All**
- **Electricity:** the new heating system in the Hall overloaded the electricity supply of three 60 amp fuses. Therefore, the heating in the Hall had to be switched off for a short period. UK Power Networks replaced the fuses with 100 amp ones. With all the electrical equipment in use in the

Church and Hall the total load is now 75 amps, well below the new 100 amp limit. The system may need a further upgrade when the heating in the Church is changed to electricity.

5b. Finance: Clive presented the following report to the meeting:

5c. Safeguarding: In her written report Gerrardine stated that there had been one DBS clearance for a volunteer to assist with the Confirmation classes.

5d. Landscaping: Sean reported to the meeting on the progress that has been made with the landscaping. So far he has received help on an ad hoc basis, but would now like to set this up more formally. The PPC approved the following:

- The formation of an informal gardening group
- No further hedge cutting this year to give the hedges chance to grow
- The installation of tree support posts consisting of a two-post system with a crossbar to reduce the risk of wind damage, as well as the purchase of tree watering bags for the dry season.
- Purchase of edging, compost and mulch around the trees.
- The addition of a gardening sign-up section on the Parish website.
- The provision of compost bins to be discussed with Fr Jais. **ACTION: SB, FJ**

5e. Youth Ministry: Peter reported that the Jesus Youth group meetings are going well. Various summer activities for young people such as the Blaze retreat day for confirmandi to be advertised in the newsletter and on the Church noticeboard. Discussion turned to setting up a Youth Choir and regular local events. Peter offered to organise a full Youth Mass for all 3 Aylesbury Churches. It was agreed to set up a group to work with the young people to achieve this. Fabian, Abigail, Usha, Mariene and Nancy to be contacted to help with this. **ACTION: PD, NK**

5f. Children's Liturgy: Nancy reported that this was going very well. Two more Sunday school volunteers have been recruited, leading to a team of eleven helpers. Safeguarding requirements are in order. The First Holy Communion Mass will be taking place at OLOL on 16th May, when 20 children will receive their First Holy Communion. It was agreed that registration for FHC 2027 should open earlier in the summer, and not wait until the autumn.

5g. Readers: Carole reported that following the appeal earlier this year, more readers have come forward for both the Saturday Vigil and Sunday 10.30am Masses.

OLOL SVP: written report from Fabian: the SVP have been continuing with their work in the Parish visiting the elderly and the sick, taking Holy Communion to the housebound, supporting parishioners with transport to Church. They also provide international support through their twinning programme with communities in India, Sudan Romania and Grenada. They will be raising funds by holding a buffet lunch on 17th May after the 10.30am Mass.

Pentecost 2026:

A discussion took place concerning the format of the 10am Sunday Mass on Pentecost, 24th May. How could the Mass be made truly international? Ideas put forward included bidding prayers in different languages, readings in different languages, everybody saying the 'Our Father' in their own language. Fr Jais to decide and Carole to alert the readers already on the rota. **ACTION: FJ, CP**

Parish Calendar 2027:

It was decided that events such as the main Mass at Pentecost should be planned well in advance and include as many of the congregation as possible. OLOL used to have a Parish Calendar to plan events, but this gradually lapsed during the Covid era and the subsequent closure of the Hall. Therefore, it was decided to re-introduce a Parish Calendar in 2027 so that all events will be included and can be planned for in advance. All PPC members to put forward items for next year's Parish Calendar as soon as possible, which Carole will coordinate. **ACTION: All, CP**

6 Social Events:

- **Autumn Fayre and printing of Raffle Tickets:** It was agreed that the Autumn Fayre should take place on the first Saturday in September 5th September, to avoid a clash with the Indian celebration on 12th September. These two events clashed last year which led to part of our community unable to take part in our Autumn Fayre. Carole to contact Sean Dunne and Ruban regarding printing of the raffle tickets. **ACTION: CP NB Ruban has replied that 5th September is too early – the volunteers won't be ready in time. Therefore, Fr Jais has offered them 12th or 19th September. I am currently waiting for Ruban to let me know which they have chosen. As soon as I hear from them I will put this in these minutes and then we can go ahead with having the raffle tickets printed.**
- **Formation of Social Committee:** Now that the Hall is available and requests had been made for setting up a Social Committee, a note was placed in the newsletter asking for those who would be interested in joining such a committee to pass their details to the Parish office. Unfortunately, there were no responses. Therefore, it was decided to identify and contact informally the various groups already operating. **ACTION: All**

7 Parking during Masses:

Complaints have been received about parking near the Church during Sunday Masses. This included a letter from the Church of the Holy Spirit, with photos, not all of which showed people attending OLOL. The Knights of St Columba are now supervising parking on Sundays.

8 AOB

Fr Jais reported that a table tennis will be purchased for use in the Hall

Fr Jais mentioned that the kneelers in the Church need to be replaced and we need to obtain a quote. It was agreed to ask St Joseph's for price and details of the kneelers they have replaced recently. **ACTION FJ**

9 Date of Next Meeting: 7th July 2026

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm with a prayer from Fr Jais