

**St John the Evangelist, Portobello.
Parish Pastoral Council.
05 November 2025.**

1 & 2.

Present: Fr Jock, Donald Scott (Chair), Tracy Burgess, Agnieszka Kiersztejn, Frances McDevitt, Linda Moran, Paul Tansey.

Also present: Enrico Fertini (Parishes' Administrator), Chris Vinestock (Chair, Fabric Committee & Pastoral Team member).

Apologies: Fr Shaiju, Diane Devlin, Anne Gilchrist, Richard Laverick (Chair, Finance Council), Deacon Eddie White (Deacon & Pastoral Team member).

The meeting began with a period of stillness followed by a reading of the First Reading and the Responsorial Psalm for Tuesday in 31st Week in OT (Year 1) - St Paul to the Romans, 12:5-16a and Psalm 131. There was a short period of reflection and sharing on the readings followed by a prayer for a spirit-filled meeting.

3.

Minute

After consideration, the Minute of 18 September 2025 was approved.

A copy will be uploaded to the parish website and a hard copy will be placed in the PPC folder at the back of the church.

Fr Jock reiterated that PPC Minutes should be made available to parishioners as soon as possible after meetings. Once the Minute has been scrutinised by PPC members, it will be distributed as part of the usual newsletter e-mail package. Parishioners will be invited to respond to the Minute via the PPC secretary.

4.

Matters arising/Action Points

AP4 - Donald will discuss this with Diane.

AP5 - after further discussion, it was decided to pursue the purchase of the 50cm figures.

AP7 - with Fr Shaiju's support, this is underway.

AP8 - this will be covered in the PP report (Item 5).

AP9 - with a number of new parishioners, this should be revisited as a priority.

AP11 - it has been decided that a new joint handbook for St J's and St MM should be produced.

5.

Report from Parish Priest

Fr Jock summarised recent events and outlined future plans.

Liturgy, Celebration of the Sacraments, Prayer

Fr Shaiju's arrival has been welcomed. Thanks to Chris and her team, adjustments have been made to the Parish House to accommodate Fr Shaiju.

Saturday morning Mass, followed by Reconciliation, has been reintroduced. A second Cosy Corner has now been created.

Future plans include November Bereavement Masses, for which Colette Dempsey and Fr Jock have sent out invitations to parishioners bereaved in the last year. There will be an evening of Adoration on Tuesday 09 December 2025 (in place of December's Holy Hour and Benediction) from 6 - 10pm (with 7pm Mass).

There will be a Cluster Advent Retreat, led by Fr Jim Walls and hosted by St Mary's, Star of the Sea, on Saturday 13 December 2025.

Possible courses and talks are being investigated for Lent 2026.

There was a discussion about how best to manage the large number of Orders of Service from requiems. Currently, the display board is full. It was suggested that, to create space, older OoS might be stored in an accessible folder which could be stored at the back of the church.

There was also discussion about possible Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass times.

Faith Formation

Agnieszka reported that Taizé evenings will continue on the last Sunday of each month in the church. Sacramental Teams are all operating.

General Governance and Administration

Richard Laverick is settling into his new rôle as Chair of the Finance Council. A QR code is now available to parishioners so that online donations can be sent to the parish. The new card readers will be deployed soon. Deacon Eddie has approached a sound-baffling company for quotes for the hall.

Chris reported that there have been further issues with the new central heating system in the Parish House.

Outreach

The Inclusivity Group workshop on 27 October 2025 was well received. On 23 November 2025, Rev Sigrid Marten, Associate Minister at the High Kirk of St Giles, will give a talk on the rôle of women in Ministry from personal as well as an historical perspective. There was a brief discussion around the work of the Inclusivity Group and the position of the Magisterium.

Future plans include a showing of the Centenary Flower Festival video by the Oral History Project group to the Thursday Club on 20 November 2025. The J&P concert, in aid of Firefly International, is on Thursday 20 November 2025.

Deacon Eddie, Fr Jock and Fr Shaiju are planning to engage with potential Caritas pupils during Term 2 (when they will be in S5).

6. Planning for OPM on 16 November 2025

Drawing on the earlier reflections on the twelfth chapter of St Paul's Letter to the Romans, it was suggested that the OPM might be an opportunity for parishioners to consider 'gratitude' in the context of their lived experiences of parish life. Donald will speak at weekend Masses (06 and 07 November) to encourage people to come to the OPM.

7. Update on website and faith formation links

This was overtaken within Fr Jock's report.

8. Date for the next PPC meeting

It was agreed that the next PPC meeting will be on **Thursday 22 January 2026** at 7pm in the Parish House.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with a prayer.

	Action points arising from PPC meeting on 18 September 2025 Updated 22 October 2025	Action by whom	Status
AP1	Share PPC Minutes with parishioners ASAP after meetings	Fr Jock, Frances, Enrico	Ongoing
AP2	Decide & agree content & format for OPM on 16 November 2025	Fr Jock, Deacon Eddie, Donald	Ongoing
AP3	Contact Hospitality Team re OPM	Frances	Done
AP4	Develop ideas & resources for potential new discussion groups	Fr Jock, Diane	Ongoing
AP5	Research & identify possible additional Crib figures (3xMagi)	Tracy (with Lesley Reid), Chris	Ongoing
AP6	Upload & publicise Tracy's online Prayer Resources	Fr Jock, Deacon Eddie, Enrico	Done
AP7	Review & update, as necessary, parish website	Fr Jock, Deacon Eddie, Enrico	Ongoing
AP8	Explore how best to engage with young people more effectively, including discussions with P6/7 & with Caritas students to develop youth outreach.	Fr Jock, Deacon Eddie, Donald (with N Kane & T McMurtry)	Ongoing
AP9	Create a 'welcome to the parish' policy / pack	Chris, Enrico, Linda, Frances	Ongoing
AP10	Refresh / restart Eco-Group	Deacon Eddie, Donald (with Ruth O'Reilly)	Ongoing
AP11	Reprint, after minor editing, Parish Handbook	Fr Jock, Frances	Ongoing