Agenda: Parish Pastoral Council 2026 Meeting

Date/time/venue: 21 November 2026, 7.00 - 8:30 PM, following the Vigil Mass at St Luke's Catholic College

Attendees: Fr Gayan Thamel (GT), Ramon Gunasekera (RG), Jerome Semau-Roache (JSR), Alistair Soares (AS), Didi Surian (DS), Rex D'Abreu (RD), Althea Dela Cruz (ADC2), Chrissy Presello (CP), Malinda Fernando (MF), Mandy Goswami (MG), Gerald Oblea (GO), Caroline Tuli (CT), Perpetua Oninye (PO).

Ex-Officio: Kelly Bauer (KB), Ged Oblea (GO)

Apologies: Christine Leahy (CL), Kelly Bauer (KB)

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1. Fellowship Dinner

The meeting commenced with fellowship and dinner shared amongst PPC members.

2. Opening Prayer

Opening prayer led by Caroline Tuli.

3. Check-in

Members participated in a brief check-in and community sharing.

4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Seconded by Jerome Semau-Roache.

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5. Ministry and Parish Updates

Diocese / Deanery

- No updates.

College

- No updates.

Building and Facilities

- A new cabinet has been donated for the church's PA system.
- Pebbles and weed-prevention mats are going into the garden beds to keep them tidy.
- A second TV will be put up outside the church to show the Mass slides, so everyone outside can follow along and join in.

Children’s Liturgy (CLOW)

- The team is proud of our youth volunteers, who are leading Gospel discussions and keeping the children engaged.
- Father's announcement calling the children to the front is working well and keeps things running smoothly.

Social Media

- Plan to be developed to make sure our social media works alongside the parish website and app.

Safeguarding

- Diocese to carry out a safeguarding audit on 11th December at 10:00am, as part of the Parish Controls Assessment.

Parish Operations

- Fr Gayan and Fr Chinonye share the weekend Masses. Fr Gayan celebrates the weekday Masses.
- The sick are visited regularly at home, and elderly parishioners are visited at the Marsden Park nursing home.
- The parish financial report was presented. The 2025/26 financial year ended with a positive result. A parish volunteer is helping with the bookkeeping.
- Ministry groups are going well, and at the 21/22 November weekend Masses we announced two new leads: Ofaly (Faye) Ortiz for the new Piety Stall Ministry and Pamela (Pam) Barquez for Hospitality, taking over from Amy, whom we thank for her service.
- This year's sacramental program is finished: First Reconciliation (74), First Holy Communion (80) and Confirmation (55). Dates for 2027 are being finalised.
- 11 candidates are in the OCIA process and attend weekly formation sessions. We may consider offering a Children’s OCIA program next year.
- The parish app has launched. More features are planned to make it more interactive and to improve communication.
- The parish will collect Christmas donations for the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) as part of our Christmas outreach.
- This year's major fundraisers are done: the Parish Dinner Dance, the fortnightly Food Stalls and the Christmas Carols.
- The Parish Office will be closed on 10th December 2026 for the Diocesan Parish

Secretaries' Reflection Day and Christmas Gathering.

Youth Ministry

- Four young adults from our Parish have applied for World Youth Day 2027, and we will hear back by 30 November.
- Fundraising is underway: our bubbles and lights stall at the Elara Halloween Market did well, and the next market is on Saturday 28th November.

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6. Vox Populi (Community Feedback)

- Discussed the removal of “future” in “past, present and future” from the Acknowledgement of Country. Requirements to be confirmed with the Diocese.
- Discussed and confirmed Parish exemption from obtaining licenses to run Food Stalls for fundraising.
- Discussed a future enhancement to the Parish App featuring a Kid’s corner with Catholic prayers.
- Discussed providing children with an additional resource to discuss Gospel reflections at home with their parents.
- Discussed running a “Holyween” event next year, where children can get involved dressing up as Saints.
- Discussed the request to create a special prayer area with candles, which is a consideration for the permanent Church building.

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7. Volunteer Christmas Party

- Update was provided on the arrangements.
- Discussed support required from PPC members.

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8. PPC Christmas Dinner

- Proposed a date for PPC to gather for Christmas Dinner.

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9. Combined PPC & PFC Meeting

- Combined meeting to be held in February 2027 to discuss the Parish loan and properties.

10. 2027 Parish Calendar of Events

- Calendar is currently in development.

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11. Other Business

- Father Gayan and Ramon thanked Mandy for her service as a PPC Executive Secretary and welcomed Alistair into the role.

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12. Upcoming Parish Events

- **29 November:** Volunteer Christmas Party
- **4 December:** St Luke's Community Christmas Carols

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13. Meeting Close

The meeting concluded with prayer and thanks to all members, ministry leaders, volunteers, and parishioners for their continued service and commitment to the parish community.
