

St Laurence's Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)
Meeting Minutes
08 July 2026, 7:35pm

Members of the PPC

Fr. Robin Mampallithadathil CRM
Fr. Alex Vadasseril CRM
Michanne Haynes (Chairman)
Giuseppe Cirillo (Vice Chairman)
Helena Judd
Fissehay Tesfagiorgis
Stephen Warde
Stephen Chapman
Sarah Sykes
Kay Dodsworth

With Apologies

Rev. Dr. Geoff Cook
Edward Acton
Eddie Watson
Rachel Chalkin
Jhon Nuqui (Secretary)

1. Opening Prayer

Meeting opened with prayer led by Fr. Robin.

2. Welcome and Apologies

Chairperson welcomed everyone and conveyed apologies from those unable to attend.

3. Fr. Robin's Parish Update

a. Pastoral and Liturgical Updates

Our weekday mass sacrosanct, Setsko, has not attended mass for a number of weeks, Fr Robin has enquired and spoke to her son, Charles who said that his parents are elderly and seeking a quiet life at the moment and do not require a visit from the priests. Arrangements are needed to ensure that readers are available for the weekday masses.

Fr. Alex will be going on holiday in August 2026. During this time, weekday masses will be reduced to 1 per day and there will be no mass on Monday so that Fr Robin can maintain his allocated 1 day-off per week. When Fr. Robin goes on holiday later in the year, we will also implement a reduced week day mass schedule, and Fr. Alex will also be entitled to his weekly day-off.

Fr. Alex will be lead the First Holy Communion and the Saint Carlos Acutis groups and Fr. Robin will be leading the Confirmation group and Cambridge City Youth league. Fr. Robin was advised that Fr Bien is the Diocesan Youth lead.

A question was raised about including First Holy Communion masses during the Sunday mass and Fr. Robin said it can be reviewed but there are known logistical issues including parking and reserving pews for families.

Fr Alex proposed that for All Saints Day (November 1st) which falls on a Sunday this year, he would like to encourage the First Holy Communion children to dress up as their favourite Saint. This idea was well received and Fr Robin also asked to consider the inclusion of altar servers in this.

b. Forthcoming Events and Priorities

Fr. Robin would like to have a parish celebration for the Diocesan jubilee, preferably with an outdoor mass celebration at the school and with the Bishop present. Given the time needed to plan this event, September seemed to be the most appropriate time to do this. Proposed dates were the weekend of 12th/13th or 19th/20th. Need to check with Rachel on the school's availability. It was also proposed that at this event that in addition to food and games stalls that parish groups are also given space to showcase the work they do in the parish.

The St. Laurence feast day will be celebrated after the 11.15 mass with a BBQ in the garden. All will be encouraged to attend. Pepe and Helena have volunteered to organise the event.

4. Diocesan Laity Council Updates

Michanne attended the Diocesan Council of Laity meeting in June and provided the following updates:-

The Bishop has now published the Diocesan decree on PPCs which he expects all parishes to follow, and have an appropriate PPC established from September 2026, with the PPC Chairperson attending the November Council of Laity of meeting. In addition there is a Welcoming New Priests Policy that will help Priest in the diocese work with the new PPCs. The Dean has responsibility for overseeing that parish councils are in line with the Diocesan decree and will also fall under review by Bishop Peter during his canonical visit.

The Council of Laity meetings will, after November 2026, be an annual meeting of PPC chairs, and there will be a new body, the Diocesan Pastoral

Council, that will be a strategic, consultative body to the Bishop. This body will meet with the Bishop more frequently.

Bishop Peter noted that there will be two ordinations in the summer and a new religious order, Sacred Heart Fathers will join the Diocese in Jan/Feb 2027. 4th Adorno Father will be coming to Cambridge in September. Within the Cambridge Deanery, the Bishop noted that the growth in Huntingdon parish requires a new church which cannot be accommodated at the present site. Plans are for St. Ives and Huntingdon to evolve together. Building a church in Cambourne is not a current priority but there is a long-term plan to link Cambourne with St. Neots.

Within the St. Andrew Deanery conversations, one of our points of discussion was GDPR policies and it was apparent that there is not a consistent understanding of what GDPR guidelines currently allow and do not allow parishes to do. This would be something that should be raised at the next Council of Laity meeting.

5. Presentation of the New Parish Council Guidelines

Everyone at present noted that had received and read the Diocesan Policy on Parish Pastoral Councils. Fr. Robin noted that whilst the current council conformed to the policy for the most part, there will be a new council formed with an elected Chair. The current council will continue until October.

6. Parish Day Celebration- Saturday, 9 August

Most of this discussion happened earlier in the meeting. The Parish Day Celebration for the Jubilee is to be separate to the parish's St Laurence Feast Day celebration to allow for appropriate planning.

7. Buildings and Grounds Management Update

Works Completed

- a. Electrical Inspection
- b. Risk Assessment

Ongoing Works

- c. Works (both outdoors and indoors) to comply fully with results of risk assessment
- d. Solar panels ownership documentation
- e. Compliance with fire assessment

Upcoming Works

- f. Issues concerning pigeons nesting in the roof
- g. Architectural quotes for expanding the parish hall

8. Any Other Business (AOB)

To help with the website updating, Peter's House, a web development company that builds and support church websites was suggested. Steven W also volunteered to help with the development of the new website and reminded us that he can post items on the current website in the PPC section as the minutes to meetings seem to not be there.

9. Next PPC Meeting

PPC to meet on the second Wednesday of every other month:

- i. 9 September 2026
- ii. 11 November 2026 (New Parish Council)

10. Closing Prayer

11. Meeting closed in prayer led by Fr. Robin.