

**First Meeting
of
Parishes Pastoral Council for the Parishes of
Holy Family and St Ninian,
St Flannan, and St John of the Cross**

2nd March 2024 at St Flannan's hall

Present at the meeting were parishioners from the parishes as well as the parishes'were clergy.

Following the opening prayer and introductions, the meeting got down to business,

Our situation in the wider Archdiocese of Glasgow

We were reminded that the Archdiocese of Glasgow has been engaging in a process of renewed outreach (evangelisation) while at the same time taking steps to redesignate resources of every kind. This, inevitably, will mean seeking out and developing new ways of making the gospel evident in the world and bringing Christ into the lives of all generations, especially the young, in tried as well as more contemporary ways. At the same time, the need to rationalise our precious resources is urgent and renewal of structures, disposal of buildings and reassignment of personnel crucial. This will be happening across the Archdiocese.

Already, our three parishes are designated as a single pastoral area. Our deanery of 12 parishes has formed itself into five discernible pastoral areas and work is beginning to bring those parishes together pastorally.

It is important to understand, every single parish in the Archdiocese of Glasgow will change. Some may merge with others. Some buildings may close. But all parishes will change - including ours. And this is coming more quickly, across the Archdiocese, than many may have realised.

Topics discussed:

1. The future shape of our parishes: generally it was accepted that our three parishes can work as one pastoral entity.
2. We agreed that we would begin to work toward a combined summer schedule for Masses so that one priest could celebrate the Sunday Masses on his own. It was understood that, in exceptional pastoral circumstances, Canon Law allows a priest to celebrate three Masses, on a given day, but no more than that.
3. It was agreed that we would investigate establishing or re-establishing something like a messenger system.
4. It was agreed that a combined parishes bulletin is a good idea.
5. Ideas for a combined parishes project that reaches beyond the practising community were discussed.

We agreed that we would meet again after Easter and that this meeting and future meetings need to be publicised better and a way created so that more understanding of, and knowledge about, future meetings can be shared. Various models were proposed and will be considered.

The date, time and place of the next meeting will be announced in the next couple of weeks.