

St Mary's Church, Nairn SCO05122
Pastoral Council meeting 20th August 2025
revised minutes

Members present

Father Domenico, John, Marie, Steve, Gigi, Mags, Gary and Mary.

Apologies

Sharon, Elaine, Walter, Chloe and Phil.

Financial report

Book Balance at 1st April 2025 = £ 78,458

Book Balance at 31st July 2025= £ 97,054

Exceptional income over the 4 month period.

Gift aid Refund £ 6,564

Endowment Trust £ 1,867

Fashion Show £ 4,463

Ecumenical music night £ 915

St Patrick's music night £ 371

House rental £ 2,800

TOTAL £16,980

Expenditure

Blinds for hall £ 970

Outstanding expenditure

Roof repairs £ 2, 800

Sacristy repairs to be confirmed.

Minutes of last meeting

Approved by Steve seconded by John.

Matters Arising

Sacristy repairs, The first stage has now been completed.

There remains the internal painting and redecoration including the flooring.

It was suggested that once the wall of the Sanctuary has been repaired we should consider getting an estimate for painting the whole area.

The Flower Room

We have a new estimate for these alterations, it has come in lower than the original at £ 3,350. Mary would like to meet with the joiner to discuss some slight changes, which may be a small change in amount to this bill. A meeting will hopefully take place over the next week or so. John, Gigi and Steve will also try and attend the meeting.

First aid

Someone has been contacted to provide first aid training. This will cost £ 35.00 per person. The training will last 6 hours and he will take up to 10 people.

Apparently the training will last for three years

Father to recontact him and find out whether he will issue certificates, or there has to be a separate examiner to do so.

Father to add a request for volunteers to the Sunday bulletin. Several members of the committee have volunteered.

PVG

Mags has 12 people identified. She is to contact them with Job descriptions and establish whether they are compliant with the rules. Father to put a notice in the bulletin to pick up any people who may need to be involved.

Garden flowers

Gigi is busy sorting out the garden and is managing well present.

Social Outing

Marie has arranged this, in a private capacity. After notice in the church, she has 46 people signed up. The maximum the restaurant can take is 50.

Lock on the front door

John is in the process of organising this.

Church Notice board

Mags has organised a local firm to make a notice board that will stand at the front nearer to the road. It is made of steel and costs £ 2,140.

Blinds for the Hall

Organised by Mags. These are already installed and paid for. Cost £ 970.00

Advertisement of the Church Services

Chloe has composed this and sent it to the Nairnshire.

Other topics

John: Winter fair. A meeting took place recently to organise the Fair, a lot of arrangements were sorted out. A second one will be held on 25th September. It has been decided to rename the event to St Mary's XMAS FAYRE (instead of the Winter Fair)

Chloe has asked if, that in the event of there being no Altar Servers, could it be arranged that one of the congregation could ring the bell for the elevation of the host. It was decided that Father could give the bell to someone at the front before Mass starts.

AOCB

Proper Conduct and Good Practice

There was a discussion regarding the question of good practice and conduct amongst council members. This issue arose as a result of a recent email comment. Views were expressed by a number of members and Father Domenico summarised as follows:

1. Each Council member is working towards building up the parish as a Christ-centred community, which is characterised by the many shared and supportive initiatives that take place within it.
2. As such each one of us has a responsibility, not only towards the parishioners we represent, but towards one another on the Parish Pastoral Council.
3. Our role as council members requires sensitivity and respect for one another, and a recognition of the right of each person to express a valued opinion, without judgement or criticism, or reference to one another's views or comments in shared communications.
4. Any issues that arise should be clarified directly with the person concerned; if this is not possible or appropriate, please do feel free to speak to Father Domenico, or to our chairperson.

Father Domenico concluded by saying that this has been a " learning moment " for all of us , and that we should draw a line under this now and move forward together, remembering that true collaboration is most effective when it is accompanied by a genuine support for, and recognition of the talents of one another, and of our different personalities, which cannot but help to enrich the spiritual, pastoral, and social life of our parish.

Church Heating

Fr. Domenico has had a request about the heating in the church but feels there is little left that he can do about it; it is switched on three hours before each Mass, the thermostat is turned up to the maximum, and the radiators have been bled.

Fr. Domenico has been offered a Marble Baptismal Font, by a neighbouring Church. It is large, heavy and he reluctantly feels he has to refuse as there is no suitable space to put it in the Church.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 3rd December 2025