

**MINUTES OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
DUNSFORD AND ARDGLASS**

DATE: 25 August 2025

PRESENT:

Fr McCloskey (FrMcC) – President

Meave Gilchrist (MG) – (Downpatrick Family of Parishes Forum {DFoPF} Rep) – Chairperson

Kate Helm (KH) - Secretary

Barbara McConvey (BMcC), Marian McIlhone (MMcI) and Eileen Cahir (EC)

AGENDA POINT	DETAILS:	ACTION BY:
1	Opening Prayer: The opening prayer was led by FrMcC	
2	Apologies: Carmel Doherty	
3	Mission Statement: MG read the mission statement for reflection by the Council.	
4	Adoption of Minutes: The adoption of the minutes from the previous meeting, of 11 Aug 25, was proposed by BMcC and seconded by MMcI.	
5	Matters Arising:	
5.1	Eucharistic Ministers – 1 st and 3 rd Sunday every month – It was reported that difficulties remain in having those wishing to receive being identified. Requests for a staff member to accompany the Eucharist Minister (EM) in identifying appropriate residents have not been widely facilitated. EM will continue to seek support on each visit.	
5.2	Prayer Person discussed. EC agreed to take on this role.	
5.3	Father McColoskey's Sabbatical – Liturgical diary dates were revisited alongside the expected support from the lay ministry to the incumbent priest, details of whom to be announced in the coming weeks. Events for the incumbent priest to be made aware of remain as <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. November Mass 2. Christmas Masses 3. Lent arrangements 4. Funerals 	

	<p>5. Baptisms remain first and third Sundays of each month</p> <p>6. Holy days – 4 holy days occur during the sabbatical</p> <p>7. Sacrament of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation for St Mary’s, Dunsford and St Nicholas’, Ardglass.</p> <p>A meeting between Fr McCloskey and the sacristans is to be convened prior to the sabbatical.</p>	
6	AOB	
6.1	<p>Ministry of Consolation,</p> <p>Since September 2024 Pathways to the Future have been working with representatives of Bethany teams to explore how best to develop and expand bereavement ministry within our Families of Parishes. The recommendation is that bereavement support services should become a lay ministry of the Diocese.</p> <p>The intention is to develop a Code of Practice and Guidelines in advance of a meeting with the parish representatives tentatively earmarked for late September which KH will attend.</p>	KH
6.2	Fr McC thanked the Pastoral Council for their support as he moves towards sabbatical.	
7	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>The date for the next meeting was agreed for Monday 6 October 2025 at 7pm in the meeting room.</p>	
8	The closing prayer was led by Fr McC	