

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

DATE: 30th March 2026

PRESENT: Fr McCloskey and Fr McKay

Eileen Cahir (EC) – Prayer leader

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

Kate Helm (KH) – Secretary

Carmel Doherty (CD), Barbara McConvey (BMcC), Marian McIlhone (MMcI)

AGENDA POINT	DETAILS:	ACTION BY:
1	Opening Prayer: The opening prayer was led by EC	
2	Apologies: Fr McK joined nearing the close of the meeting.	
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 2 nd Mar 26, was proposed by CD and seconded by BMcC.	
5	Matters Arising:	
5.1	MG advised that there has been no response seeking volunteer for catechists to Come Follow Me programme. Fr McC agreed to approach several individuals in an attempt to garner interest.	
5.2	The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) into the Faith was discussed exploring options available to achieve the delivery of training within our parish or join with Downpatrick during their calendar of training. MG agreed to discuss the options available with Downpatrick Parish and feedback at the next PPC meeting. Meanwhile it was agreed that a notice would be placed in the parish bulletin to garner interest.	MG
6	AOB:	
6.1	MG spoke on providing a sensory friendly mass, conducive to those with SEND requirements within our parish, acknowledging	MG

	<p>communication, cognition and social-emotional needs. It is believed that Ballyhackamore is currently the only parish to provide this mass. MG agreed to engage with Ballyhackamore Parish to explore further and feedback at the next PPC meeting with the view to providing a similar mass within our parish.</p>	
6.2	<p>Fr McC confirmed that a three-day mini mission will take place within our parish this June with the focus on healing. Details to be placed in the bulletin in due course -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wed 10th Jun – Mass for the Healing of the Sick • Thur 11th Jun – Mass for the Healing of the Soul • Fri 12th Jun (Feast of the Sacred Heart) – Mass for the Healing of Families. 	
6.3	<p>Pastoral Community Forum – it was acknowledged that this has not taken place since Jun 25, when it was held in Downpatrick, but it remains hopeful that interest can be reignited.</p>	
6.4	<p>Dates for Cemetery Sunday were agreed as follows, with details placed in the Bulletin in due course –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ardglass – Sunday 7th June 2026 at 3pm • Dunsford – Sunday 7th June 2026 at 5pm 	
6.5	<p>MG spoke of The Sycamore Programme aimed at those preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation.</p> <p>All PPC members are requested to think of ideas to encourage parental engagement, particularly parents from primary 4 through to primary 7 age group, on volunteering to assist in the delivery.</p>	All
6.6	<p>Fr McC was delighted to confirm that the bishop has agreed to Fr McK remaining within our parish until the summer in support to Fr McC.</p>	
7	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>The date for the next meeting was agreed for -</p> <p>Monday 27th April at 7.30pm in the meeting room.</p>	
8	<p>The closing prayer was led by EC</p>	