

July 2025

Dear Parishioners

Notes from the recent Parish Pastoral Council Meeting (PPC).

The PPC comprises of a group of people from St Mary's Marple Bridge and the Annunciation, New Mills. Members are appointed by the Parish Priest and meet with him four times a year to discuss matters concerning the Parish.

This paper is to give Parishioners some feedback regarding the recent PPC meeting.

- 1) Much work has been undertaken at both churches. In MB clearing of overgrowth on the graveyards has continued. Extensive groundwork has been done to ensure the graveyards are in the best shape possible. The damaged stone wall along Hollins Lane boundary wall is scheduled to be repaired end of July/early August. Two contractors have been met with a view to the rotten windows on the old Parish Hall. The solar lighting from the carpark to the church now in place and will be of great benefit on the dark nights. **New Mills.** After much correspondence High Peak council have now approved work for diseased tree in the graveyard. The church roof following the water leaks has finally been repaired. A quote for painting the water damage internal area approved by Parish Priest and should be done at the end of the month. The damaged pathway through the graveyard to the school will be looked at once the deceased tree have been completed. Thanks to Nick for organising. Also thanks to Harold and Terry.
- 2) Safeguarding - Catherine Anderson is the Officer for MB and Jo Barber for NM. There will be people who will need their DBS updating for the Parish Register. Jo will organise. The Acceptable Behaviour Policy is at the back of both churches and also the Safeguarding information available at the back of both churches.
- 3) We still have no Finance Officer at MB. Advert needs to go out again. No one has applied for the Caretaker role (both these are paid jobs). We are aware the Parishioners at both churches need to be updated yearly with a financial accounts and hopefully this will be done when we have a Finance Officer Appointed or help from the diocese.

4) The First Holy Communion at NM was a great success and a very happy occasion. There were 10 children who made their First Holy Communion from MB, 5 children from NM and 17 from Holy Spirit, Marple. The question was raised that St Mary's Church, MB could be the church where the children make their First Holy Communion next year. We still need a Catechist at St. Mary's. Since the Pandemic we have no children's Liturgy. (Now we know the church is staying open we will be having a meeting with the Head Master of St Mary's Academy to see how we can move things forward).

5) Technology and Communication - Jim is doing a sterling job in updating the Parish website and the what-App group - which keeps everyone informed. Our Parish Administrator also makes sure the Newsletter goes out on time via email and paper copies are available at the back of both churches. The Parish Newsletter may change when we join with the other churches when Father Tobin comes.

6) Spiritual and Social. Our Bishop has asked that the Laity help with both Spiritual Services and Social Events at St Mary's MB. There is a programme at the back of the church. These include - Songs of Praise, Adoration Service. Padley Service, Four Sessions, 'Deepening our Faith', Service of Creation, Adoration and Reflection on the birth of Our Blessed Lord.

Social Events - Christmas Lunch- At the Devonshire - 5th December 2025.

(Christmas Fair 8th November NM, Wednesday Club NM).

Also, please see the Artwork displayed in St Mary's Church, MB. Work done by the children of St Mary's Academy who drew pictures of the church and the Stations of the Cross. Thank you to Mrs. Boucher - article to go in Catholic Paper.

Parishioners - Please join in and if you would like to organise a service or a social event.

Now St Mary's Church is staying open we can all work together.

7) As Parishioners will be aware there were two Petitions and an application for Recourse sent to our Bishop. We also asked to have a copy of the Decree joining both churches together. This information is still outstanding. This is important to know with regards to Canon Law and any future threat to St Mary's Church.

(Thank you to Peter Moor who has worked hard on behalf of St Mary's Church).

8) When this PPC meeting took place we had not received the Bishop's letter saying St Mary's was to stay open with mass at the weekend (so this note has been updated in light of the new information). We are also having a change of

priest and we understand that Fr Emmanuel's last mass will be Sunday 7th September and he will leave the following day when Father Greg Tobin takes over.

Fr Emmanuel has said Father Tobin will be coming to see both churches on Friday 8th August and he will be happy to meet parishioners at Marple Bridge at 11.00am. He will also visit NM later the same day. The Bishop in his letter said, "I am now able to appoint an assistant priest to work alongside Father Greg". Therefore we look forward to working with Father Tobin and meeting the new assistant priest.

We expect there will be a lot of changes at both our churches as we welcome our new priests.

The PPC will not convene again until after Father Emmanuel leaves. Therefore on behalf of the PPC and the parishioners we thank Father Emmanuel for his ministry and wish him well in his new parish.

Kind Regards

Denise Ead

Chair PPC

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