

St Mary Magdalen & St Teresa's Parish Open Meeting

Tuesday, 18th November 2025 at 7:30pm

Parish Synodal Council

- We began with housekeeping for The Parish Synodal Council.
- Ex officio members are Fr Ian, Deacon John, Mary Heaton (Safeguarding Officer) and the All Hallows chaplain (to be appointed).
- There were 2 nominations for 3 Elected Member slots. The nominations were unopposed, so Amanda Conlon and Noah Chappell-Elgie were both re-elected for 2 years and 1 year respectively.
- The 4 Appointed Members were all happy to be re-appointed for 2 years. These are Clare Ireland, Francine Beckett, Anna-Marie Pennington and Jen Green.

Family of Parishes working group consultation

- We split into groups of 4 people. Then, using 'Conversation in the Spirit,' which enables us all to share, listen to each other, and consider where the Holy Spirit is leading us now, we listened to the Gospel of the day – Luke 19: 1-10 Zacchaeus climbs a tree to get a better view of Jesus. We all considered a question:

'If I climbed a tree to get a better view....what would be my vision of our Family of Parishes in 5-years time?'

Following 3 rounds, each of our 8 groups shared with the big group their one key point:

Key points from each group

- 'Our Vision' - having seen positive effects already from our 'Journey in Faith', a desire to continue to get to know Jesus and each other. Build a community that has the strength to offer a place of encounter with Him.
- More Eucharistic services. More family/youth activities ie mother & baby group, youth club, church band. Encourage parents and school to attend Mass.
- 'Energy at the top' more visible and relevant in the community. Especially with the youth.
- People are loyal to their own church and may find it difficult to travel to another church, resulting in fewer numbers attending Mass. The elderly are particularly compromised.
- 'Positivity' and inclusivity (ie Jesus wanted to stay with Zacchaeus). Whatever creed, colour etc, provide a welcome for ALL.
- If some churches close, the focus of local faith will become the schools as they won't close. High schools have chapels and primary schools have facilities which could be used. Eucharistic Services in school.
- We foresee a smaller number of people/parishioners who need to work together and cooperate more in view of our contracting numbers.
- People flocked for miles to hear the word of this charismatic man, Jesus. The location had minor importance.

AOB

- **Livestream**
See overleaf.

The meeting ended at 8:36pm with a prayer.

Total in attendance: 33.

The next Parish Open Meeting: Tuesday 19th May 2026 in the Social Centre.