

MINUTES of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

held Thursday, 14 May 2026

Meeting commenced: 7:01 pm

Present: Fr Tru Nguyen, Br Daniel Magadia, James Nield (Chair), Margie Hourigan (Deputy Chair), Julie Lean, Chloe Kelly, Gabriel Sequeira, Jessica Wilson (substitute for Megan Smith who is on leave), Michael Carberry, Peter Osborne, Skye McPadden.

Apologies: Matthew Garton, Stephanie Stewart, Jo Reed

1. Opening & Welcome – James

James welcomed Gabriel as the newest member of the OLSH Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), after which all members re-introduced themselves.

2. Prayer and reflection – Psalm 115 (116B) (James)

Volunteer for next meeting – Skye

3. Review and acceptance of previous meeting minutes – 9 April 2026 and extraordinary meeting 30 April 2026 – Julie. The minutes of both meetings were accepted by the PPC with no alteration.

4. Agenda Items

- **Standing Item 1: Safeguarding (Margie)**

Margie advised that an online meeting was held recently to discuss the upcoming safeguarding audit, scheduled for July/August 2026. While several risk assessments still pending, the process is well underway. The work is being managed by Margie, Carl Madsen and Sharon Greaves, our Parish Officer. Fr. Tru reported that the confessionals at both Mass centres are currently non-compliant and that the confessional at the mass centre selected to host Vigil Masses will be prioritised for an upgrade. Once that selection is finalised, he will consult both his own architect contact and the Archdiocese's architect to compare the proposed work.

- **Standing Item 2: Evangelisation (all)**

The PPC discussed this item and agreed that future meetings will no longer treat evangelisation as a standalone topic. Instead, this standing agenda item will encompass specific sub-headings of active evangelisation work, such as the Alpha program.

- **Item 3: Acknowledgement of Country before Mass (James/all)**

Michael addressed the PPC regarding the sensitivity of giving an Acknowledgement of Country before Mass, noting that parishioners hold strong views on both sides and having provided Murray Bruce's letter on the topic out-of-session. It was originally raised at a Liturgy Committee meeting, but because the Liturgy Committee found the issue exceeded their individual scope, they are forming a joint Working Party with the PPC to review options for both Mass centres. The PPC noted that Acknowledgement plaques are already in place and notices are included in the bulletin, while Chloe shared that the Vicar General, after consulting Indigenous elders, recently advised priests that a formal acknowledgement is not necessary at every Mass. The PPC discussed alternative ideas, such as hosting a smoking ceremony or Welcome to Country for special occasions, and emphasised the need for a First Nations perspective, suggesting a current STA School staff member's father, who is a Ngunnawal elder, might provide guidance. James volunteered to join the Working Group, and it was agreed to invite Megan upon her return from leave. It was noted that no fixed timeframe has been set for the group's work.

- **Item 4: Disability Inclusion (James/all)**

James previously provided several documents to the PPC out-of-session regarding disability inclusion, namely the 2016 Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's *Sacramental Guidelines for People with Disability* and a set of recommendations for action on Parish disability inclusion.

Action: He advised the PPC that he would like to conduct an audit on disability inclusion in conjunction with Fr. Tru and Sharon. The PPC endorsed James to proceed with this audit.

Update to previous meeting's agenda item: Welcoming environment for mothers and babies

As an update to the issue raised at the last meeting, the PPC confirmed that a change table with safety straps had already been installed in the SJA Mass centre unisex toilet. **Action:** Chloe advised that she would review the Australian Breastfeeding Association website for guidance on setting up these spaces, noting they provide official logos and stickers for this purpose.

- **Item 5: Updates on new Mass times (Fr Tru)**

Fr. Tru advised that he is still considering changes to the Mass times after receiving recommendations from the PPC, Liturgy, and Finance Committees. His primary focus is ensuring as little disruption as possible while reducing the total number of Masses from six to four across both Mass centres. He informed the PPC that he intends to advise of his decision in two weeks' time (around early June 2026), with an implementation date set for the first weekend of July.

- **Item 6: Proposed updates to the parish website (James)**

Fr. Tru advised that he has tested James' prototype of the new OLSH website but wishes to wait for Archdiocese assistance, as they indicated they could provide design support starting in September of this year. Chloe noted that her husband, Huw, could also offer assistance in this regard. Michael highlighted the Corpus Christi South Tuggeranong website as a good model and suggested Fr. Tru inquire about who designed it. The PPC noted that relying on these external timelines would mean the launch of any new OLSH website would be significantly delayed.

- **Item 6: Update on Alpha course preparations (Chloe)**

Chloe advised the PPC that the first Alpha meeting was held on 13 May 2026 with approximately 40 attendees. She was pleased with the turnout and reported overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants. She noted plans to potentially conduct a retreat during the fifth week of the eight-week program and is already looking ahead to planning the next Alpha cohort. Additionally, she has spoken with the OLSH Finance Committee Chair to propose funding for future Alpha programs, which the PPC supported.

5. Action Items and Next Steps

- Review the status of existing actions: The PPC are to review the current Action List as distributed by Julie before this meeting and action as required.
- Assign tasks and responsibilities from this meeting: This has already been done (please see above).
- Set deadlines for new action items: Also see above.

6. Any Other Business (AOB)

- **New OLSH Deacon:** Fr Tru advised that a new Deacon, Deacon Hao Tran, will join the parish in early July. He will assist with parish duties until early next year, at which point Deacon Tran will take over the chaplaincy duties at Daramalan College.

7. Summary and concluding prayer:

- The meeting concluded after prayer at 8.10 pm.

8. Next meeting:

- The next meeting of the **OLSH PPC** will be on the 2nd Thursday of May 2026 – 11 June 2026 at 7pm.