



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2025

Catholic Community of St Bernard and Our Lady & St Peter

Date: 25th June 2026 19:30

Venue: OLSP Church Hall

1. Introduction.

Jordan brought the meeting to order, thanked the 25 people who were attending and praised the Catenians for the refreshments and food. It was stated that the format of the discussion would be to report by exception. Despite the delivery of the new magazine being just a few days old, we did not want contributors to read directly from it.

2. Parish Priest's Report – Fr Jack

- Prayers were said for the successful deliberations at the AGM.

- Fr Jack expressed gratitude for the confirmation group successfully taking place this year, describing it as a blessing.

- He emphasised that, as the parish moves toward integration under the new 'Crawley Parish' model, it is vital to recognise the historical shortage of priests in England has continued - Planning for amalgamation of parishes is therefore a proactive step rather than relying on migration patterns. In the new model:

- Priests will primarily focus on sacramental provision rather than church management.
- Individual churches will function with relative autonomy in their day to day operation while drawing on resources and community links from the wider area

- Fr Jack made the request for more volunteers- essential to our wellbeing both financial and social. Particular reference to needing more Welcomers.
- General thanks to SVP in the work they do, also Catenians. Fr relies very much on SVP in visiting the sick and lonely and taking out Communion.
- Parishioners should be taking up most of the running of the parish whilst Fr J concentrates on "Sacramental work".



- Fr Jack shared his intention to lead a Bible study group, starting in September. Comms team also preparing a study on the Trinity in August led by Jordan.

3. Parish Council Report – Mike Hope

- The Parish Council functions as a non-exclusive support body to the parish priest and does not undertake activities independently. It was noted that the most recent meeting had been cancelled and not yet re-scheduled. Mike Hope suggested that the direction of the PPC needs to be in response to whatever is going to happen in the Pastoral plan and no-one knows that yet.

- With the development of the Pastoral Plan and formation of the Crawley Parish, there may be a need to dissolve the current parish council and establish an OLSP forum, to complement the existing St Bernard's (SB) forum- reference being made to Mike Goodwin's article in the Parish Magazine describing its advantages. Fr J keen on idea of "consultative committee" for engendering new ideas which could be the PPC role. Forum more administrative.

- However, the Parish Council currently remains the only group that actively considers both churches in its discussions.

- Discussion Point: Parish Council Membership - Question: Why aren't members elected to the parish council? - Response: The council is non-exclusive, and formal elections are not required. Membership is by invitation or self-nomination. Although people have been invited previously, there has been limited engagement.

4. Parish Finance Committee Report – Paul B

- Attendees were advised to refer to Paul B's presentation slides for detailed financial information. These are not attached.

- PFC thinks we have a "healthy bank balance".

No additional comments or unusual financial developments were reported during the meeting.

5. Ministry and Group Reports – Jonathan J

- Noted the future creation of "Welcome" messages in multiple languages, though the specific context or application was unclear. The creation path of the new logo was outlined and there was general acceptance that it was a step forward.

- It was highlighted that some key groups were missing from the parish magazine, including St Peter's School Governors, Parish Pastoral Council (PPC).



- A question was raised regarding the absence of a carol service at OLSP: Could this be alternated with St Bernard's in future years?

Meeting concluded at: 20:30 with prayer

Minutes prepared by: Jonathan Jenkins