

SOUTH DEANERY COUNCIL

Report of meeting held at St James's Hall on 28 May 2024 at 7pm.

This report is a brief summary of the decisions taken and recommendations made

Following the Prayer and Welcome by the Dean, Fr Martin Kane, a paper was presented that would form the basis of discussion. This was shown as a powerpoint presentation to allow discussions, and where agreed, any changes in the suggestions.

After much discussion it was agreed that the attached paper would be forwarded to the Archbishop as the basis for the future pattern of parishes and churches in the South Deanery.

It was emphasised that this document was the result of much discussion and debate and was the optimum arrangement for parishes in the Deanery. It was not a preferred list of closures but an advisory list which may be used by the Archbishop in taking decisions about the future of parishes and the allocation of priests.

It was noted that the parish council of St Albert's parish had lodged an appeal in Rome regarding possible closure or merger. No decision on this was available at the meeting.

The Deanery Council recognised the importance of evangelisation in its work, and parish rationalisation was a precursor to establishing stronger institutional bases for development. Fr Joh Carroll agreed to chair a Committee on Evangelisation and asked for nominees from each pastoral area or parish.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Deanery Council on 3 September 2024 in St James's Parish hall.

ARCHDIOCESE OF GLASGOW

Southern Deanery – Recommendations for Pastoral areas and Parishes

The Southern Deanery of the Archdiocese of Glasgow is submitting this brief report to the Archbishop as a document which indicates the recommended distribution of the parishes in the Deanery. The recommendations made have arisen from widespread consultation and discussion, although it is clear that not all recommendations will be welcomed in each parish.

The Deanery believes this distribution of parishes offers the optimum use of the resources available and will provide the most satisfactory base for evangelisation and service to the Catholic communities.

The recommendations made take account of the declining predicted number of active priests in the Deanery, currently 19, and likely to be 12 in 5 years' time, and 9 priests in 10 years' time.

The parishes have been categorised in 3 groups, namely

- Category A which are parishes likely to be supported by the Archdiocese for over 10 years;
- Category B which are parishes to be supported for at least the next 5 years and kept under review thereafter.
- Category C which are parishes likely to merge, close or change within the next 5 years.

In each case of change in the parishes the boundaries of the parishes will require to be redrawn. As a consequence of such changes the current Pastoral Areas will be realigned.

The brief commentary offered for each Pastoral Area provides a synoptic rationale for the recommendations made.

Pastoral Area	Category A	Category B	Category C	Rationale and Comment
1	St Helen's, Blessed Duns Scotus	Holy Cross, St Bridgid's		
2	Christ the King, St Bartholomew's		St Margaret Mary's	
3	Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady and St George's	St Constantine's	St Albert's, St Leo's St Anthony's	
4	St Mary Immaculate, St Gabriel's,	St Vincent's	Holy Name	
5	St James's merge with St Conval's	St Robert's	St Bernard's	

Commentary

Pastoral Area 1

If there are to be significant changes in Pastoral Area 3 there could be a re-alignment of parish boundaries in this area. For example, some parishioners from St Albert's and St Leo's are likely to relocate to Holy Cross or St Helen's.

Category A Parishes

These are two well distributed geographically, serving very distinctive communities.

Bl Duns Scotus serves a very distinctive area with many pastoral services run through the Franciscan community that serves the parish

St Helen's Parish attracts many from areas outside the parish because of its location in Shawlands (Good bus routes)

Category B Parishes

Holy Cross parish has been a strong parish over decades but the demographic changes mean current parishioner numbers are low. It is an exceptional church building and chapel house. Parking is poor.

St Brigid's parish in Toryglen has a moderate number of parishioners. It is close to Holy Cross (about one mile) and to parishes in Rutherglen (in Motherwell diocese). It is a sound church building.

Category C Parishes

None

Pastoral Area 2

Category A Parishes

There will be two parishes in this pastoral are, namely Christ The King and St Bartholomew's

Christ the King is a strong parish with good facilities (Church, Hall, car parking, etc) Numbers are adequate, although falling.

There are two parishes in Castlemilk and a recognition that one would is all that can be sustained. The parishes have found it difficult to decide which one the Archdiocese should support in the years ahead. Given the relative proximity of St Margaret Mary's to Christ the King, it is suggested that St Bartholomew's parish remains. It has a good church and hall. It is likely that the Xavarian Fathers will move from these parishes within the 5-year planning span.

Category B Parishes

None

Category C Parishes

St Margaret Mary's is recommended to merge with St Bartholomew's and to close. Locally the parishioners do not wish to see this closure.

Pastoral Area 3

Category A Parishes

These are two strong parishes with good facilities. Our Lady of Lourdes is a good church and chapel house and serves Nazareth House and other institutions in the area.

Our Lady and St George is also a good church with good facilities.

Category B Parish

St Constantine's parish is one of two parishes in Govan. It is close to Our Lady of Lourdes and its future should be kept under review, especially if St Anthony's church is to close.

Category C Parishes

The anticipated closure of St Anthony's is thought appropriate because of the continuation of St Constantine's.

The low numbers of parishioners in St Albert's and St Leo's make these unsustainable. The cost of the refurbishment of the St Albert's church building would be prohibitive. There have been many discussions with the parishioners of St Albert's, and it is recommended that there is closure of St Albert's and St Leo's and a realignment of parish boundaries. This is likely to affect parishes in other pastoral areas, such as in Pastoral Area 1 (St Helen's).

The timing of the closure of St Leo's is heavily dependent on the length of service of the current parish priest.

Pastoral Area 4

Category A Parishes

St Mary Immaculate and St Gabriel's are strong parishes.

St Mary Immaculate is a traditional church with good facilities.

St Gabriel's is a small church with a vibrant congregation and a good location. It has a hall.

Category B Parish

St Vincent's, Thornliebank has a small congregation. Its future should be kept under review.

Category C

Holy Name parish is small and can be merged with either St Mary Immaculate or St Vincent's.

Pastoral Area 5

Category A Parishes

There is scope for one strong parish in Pollock. It is recommended that St James's and St Conval's merge with the recommendation that the Syro-Malabar community have a greater involvement in the running of that parish.

Category B Parishes

In St Robert's parish current resources are limited and there is a lack of facilities (eg church hall).

Category C Parishes

St Bernard's to close since current numbers do not justify their continuation.