

Our Lady of Hope Parish, Salford

Notes from the PACT meeting on 14 January 2026

Present: Fr Michael, Fr Paul, Paul Ashton, Liz Ainley, Barbara Brierley, Rachael Marsland, Kath Playfair, Mandy Rice, Pauline Reed-Scarsbrook, Joan Sweeney

Apologies: None received

Fr Michael welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

The notes of the meeting held on 5 November 2025 were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising:

- Cleaner: the new cleaner has settled in well and is doing a good job
- Hymnbooks: There has been a good response to sponsoring these for SsPP
- Fr Emmanuel: There was a good response to the collection for Fr Emmanuel and a good celebration of his time with us. He is now settled in his new parish in Bolton
- International Mass: After some discussion, it was agreed to hold the first of these Masses on Saturday 25 April at the 6.30pm Mass at St Luke's. Availability of the hall will be checked with Fran
- Family Mass (rather than Children's Mass): The suggestion was to have regular Masses where the children/families do the greeting, the readings and the offertory procession. It was agreed to start these Masses on 15 March (Mothers' Day) at both the 9.30am & the 11am Masses, with children giving out daffodils
- Marian Devotions: Joan and Kath agreed to co-ordinate these

Updates from members:

- Hampers were donated by St Ambrose Barlow High School just before Christmas. Most were distributed but there are two left. It was agreed they should go to Loaves and Fishes
- The 500 Club only has 100 members. It was agreed we need a flyer explaining it and Rachael offered to create a poster. The Finance Committee will be asked to assist with promoting and running this
- The Social Committee met on Monday:
 - The Christmas Fair went really well
 - The Carol Concert went well and was well attended. The earlier time may have helped with this
 - There will be a Spring Music concert on 19 April
 - Bingo sessions will be held monthly on a Friday evening (before the quiz) to raise funds for the parish
 - A bookcase has been donated to set up a book exchange at SsPP
 - The piety stalls are doing well
- It was suggested that we should have a new Parish Census (observing GDPR)
- UCM: The new Our Lady of Hope Foundation met last week for the first time and there were 34 members present
- There are 9 baptisms in the pipeline; 8 couples are preparing for marriage (including some convalidations); 13 people are on the RCIA; there are 6 funerals between now and 11 February
- Our You tube channel is continuing to attract viewers (and raise some money)
- The Youth Choir is now rebranded as Pulse of Hope. It is open to those who are 10+ (though one or two existing members are below 10). They are working on a podcast about Our Lady of Hope (whose feast day is this weekend)
- Safeguarding: should this be a volunteer or should we employ a paid service? DBS checks need to be updated. We should advertise situations vacant on the newsletter & website

- Sacramental Programme: There are 42 children on the programme (though some may drop out); most are from our school, with 7 from other schools
- Altar servers: we are ok at SL (not as consistent at SsPP)
- Confirmation: There are 17 candidates
- Youth Group: They are not always turning up. What is expected of the parish? Could the leaders (from different parishes) get together and share their expertise?

Any Other Business

- It was suggested that we have a Parish Meeting later in the year, asking people what they want from/for the parish
- Parish Finance: it was suggested that monthly figures should be shared

March PACT Meeting:

- It was agreed to change this to Thursday 12 March at 7pm at SsPP (i.e. following on from 6.30pm Mass) to avoid the clash with Station Masses on the Wednesdays of Lent

Further Dates for 2026 (at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at SL):

- 6 May
- 8 July
- 2 September
- 4 November