



# Weekly Update

21<sup>st</sup> September 2025

## Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> September Summary

### Name Change

This meeting was called following a suggestion from the Chapter of Canons that we should consider changing the parish name (the parish name not the church name) after we merge. It has been agreed by the attendees of today's meeting that we do not want the name of the parish to change after the merge. This was the same feedback we had from the St Joseph's meeting a couple of weeks ago. We will inform the Diocese of our views.

### Mass Times

When the Latin Rite stops at St Joseph's, the mass times for the vigil masses and Wednesday evening masses will stay the same when they move across.

### Timeline of merge

We do not have an official date of when this changeover will happen. The paperwork needs to pass through various departments, so it could be a few months away. When the Archbishop sends the official decree, we will give everyone a month's notice before the changeover happens.

### Working together and fundraising

In the meantime we need to be working together to improve our financial situation. Sacred Heart is currently at - £23289 into our overdraft. St Joseph's is at -£6062.15 into our overdraft. Expenses are still going out and the offertory collection each weekend is not covering them. Over the next few weeks we will be arranging a combined fundraising meeting across the two churches to see what we can learn from one another and ideas moving forward.

### Changing bulletin

Hopefully, you have all noticed differences in this weekend's bulletin, with the addition of this update. The weekly bulletin will keep the mass schedule, parish calendar, deanery, diocese and general news and the following few weeks booked mass intentions. This will be given out every weekend. In addition, most weekends it will be accompanied by a weekly update, concentrating on our parish specific issues and notifications. The plan is to print the weekly update on pastel coloured paper to make it stand out – apologies for this weekend the paper is on order. We welcome feedback on this new bulletin.



### **Eucharistic Ministers**

Additional Eucharist Ministers for the possibility of distributing Communion in both forms. After the parishes have merged we will be in need of more Eucharistic Ministers. Fr George is also interested in bringing back the communion in both forms. Training will be arranged in the coming months. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the office or speak to Fr George.

### **Potto Lotto and other fundraising**

It was noted that not all parishioners are aware of our participation in the Potto Lotto. There will be posters at the back of church and more information on this update. In the vestibule of Sacred Heart we have been selling items to raise money, air fresheners and fruit mostly. Please support when you can.

### **Play the Potto Lotto**

We have a Potto Lotto account. Potto Lotto is run by Stoke on Trent Council.

**Potto Lotto is a weekly online lottery set up to help raise money for local charities and good causes.**

**It costs £1 per game to play and winners could win up to £25,000 as part of the weekly draw.**

- **50p of every £1 spent goes directly to the good causes signed up and players can choose which cause receives their donation (select Sacred Heart, Tunstall)**
- **40p then goes towards prizes, running costs and VAT**
- **10p goes into a community fund**

**The lottery will be drawn every Saturday.**

To sign up to the Potto Lotto go to [www.pottolotto.co.uk](http://www.pottolotto.co.uk) and search for Sacred Heart. Alternatively the posters at the back of church have a QR code you can snap.

Every few months they do additional prizes which this month include an Aldi £1000 gift card.

This is all done direct through your bank account and each month money is deposited into the parish account for help towards Presbytery expenses.

Thank you to everyone who already does support us this way.

### **Getting ready for Christmas**

Over the next few weeks, we are going to be looking at ways of bringing our combined Parish together for Christmas cheer and fundraising. Have any ideas/solutions do let us know. You can email the office or talk to the stewards at the back of church. Current ideas are a Christmas Fair and the Christmas Carols before the Christmas vigil mass.

