

ST JAMES'S CHURCH TWICKENHAM – PARISH COUNCIL MISSION, AIMS, GUIDLINES AND GOVERNANCE

This document contains the Mission, aims, guiding principles, proposed structure of St James's Church Parish Council.

1. Mission statement

The Council places the Word of God in Holy Scripture at the heart of its life and seeks its inspiration as it works for the good of the parish.

The Council recognises that St James's is part of the Catholic Church and under the guidance of the successor of St Peter. In consequence it sees its activities as being part of the tradition and teaching of the Church.

The Council recognises that the Sacraments and in particular the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist as carried out in the worship of the Parish, as being the source of its life.

The Council acknowledges that no church body has validity unless it has at its foundation a life of prayer, and spiritual fruitfulness.

In its life the Council seeks collaboration between the ordained priesthood and the people of God who find their priesthood in the Sacrament of Baptism.

2. Aims of parish council

- to collaborate and support the parish priest in his ministry and to serve the parish
- to promote communication in an open and informed manner between priest and parish
- to expand and promote parish activities
- to create opportunities for parishioners to get to know one another for mutual support and well being of the parish family
- to nurture and build on the children/youth of the parish and to ensure that their needs are well catered for as these are the future of the church
- to support the elderly, sick and housebound to keep them within the parish family
- to coordinate with the local catholic schools to ensure common aims in terms of the catholic faith
- to be a catalyst for more voluntary work
- to coordinate the existing activities and services within the parish

3. Guiding principles

- They will have some spiritual content to bond them together.
- Nature of the Church – Holy spirit works in all – shared leadership is necessary for the missions of the church.
- As a Group we serve Our Lord through serving the Parish and supporting the Parish Priest in a constructive and loyal way.
- The Parish Council will build a faith community which needs listening to, understanding and involving the whole community.
- The group will recognise parish needs and respond to them.

4 Parish Council Governance

Members sitting on the council will be coordinators for the following activities (not limited to):

Chairperson

- Coordinates the Parish Council, AGM

Secretary (non voting member)

- Minutes & meeting coordination

Finance Committee

- Church finances
- Church buildings maintenance
- Projects – building development
- Hall bookings

Liturgy – Ministries

- Welcomes, Ushers, Collectors
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Readers
- Altar Servers
- Sacristy
- Church music
- ambiance

Pastoral Support

- Marriage Preparation Team
- Youth
- Bereavement and other support

Spirituality

- Groups (Prayer Groups, Legion of Mary, Faith Sharing – Advent & Lent)
- Adoration Team
- Days of Formation, Retreats
- Mission

Outreach

- Catechesis
 - Baptism prep
 - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults RCIA
 - Holy Communion Prep
 - Confirmation Prep
 - Children's Liturgy (CATS & 5-10yrs)
- Evangelism
 - Charities/Fundraising
 - Prison Ministry
 - Housebound/Sick/Lapsed
 - Brinsworth House

PR and Communications

- Newsletter
- Website
- Schools – St Catherine's, St James's
- Neighbouring Churches
- Activities in Diocese

Social Activities

- Christmas Market
- Parish Feast
- Garden socials
- Parties – Children and old peoples Christmas party