

## Diocese of Paisley

### Our current overall situation: October 2025

|                    |    |              |
|--------------------|----|--------------|
| Parishes:          | 31 |              |
| Priests:           |    |              |
| Parish Priests     | 25 |              |
| Assistant Priests  | 3  | = 28 Priests |
| In residence       | 2  | = 30 Priests |
| Permanent Deacons  | 6  |              |
| Pastoral Assistant | 1  |              |

#### Parishes Sharing Parish Priest:

- Clarkston-Eaglesham (2 parishes with 1 Priest)
- Erskine (2 parishes with 1 Priest)
- Paisley (2 parishes with 1 Priest)  
*St. Mirin's Cathedral also serves St. James' Church, Paisley, and Bishopton.*
- Port Glasgow-Kilmacolm (4 parishes, with 2 priests)
- Renfrew (2 parishes with 1 Priest)  
= 12 Parishes/31 sharing a Parish Priest

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Seminarians        | 2 |
| Armed Forces       | 1 |
| On Loan            | 1 |
| On loan TO Diocese | 1 |

|             |             |   |             |   |        |
|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|---|--------|
| <b>2025</b> | Ordinations | 1 | Retirements | 1 | = +- 0 |
| <b>2026</b> | Ordinations | 0 | Retirements | 1 | = -1   |
| <b>2027</b> | Ordinations | 0 | Retirements | 0 | = +- 0 |
| <b>2028</b> | Ordinations | 0 | Retirements | 1 | = -1   |
| <b>2029</b> | Ordinations | 1 | Retirements | 1 | = +- 0 |
| <b>2030</b> | Ordinations | 0 | Retirements | 1 | = -1   |

We must also allow for the possibility of early death, early retirement, illness and future commitments to national and international responsibilities.

**By 2030 we will be, at best, - 3 Priests compared to today.**

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diocese of paisley

st. mary's deanery  
notre dame cluster



### Pastoral Message

from the Clergy of the Notre Dame Cluster

Concerning the Provision of Sunday Mass

12th. October 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As you know our Diocese has undertaken a review of the provision of parishes and the distribution of clergy and major changes have already taken place.

Our cluster of parishes (based on Notre Dame High School) and our neighbouring cluster (based on St. Columba's High School) will be next to be reviewed. The review of other areas has resulted in the closure of some parishes and in other parishes sharing a priest. Bishop John has stated that, within the next few years, based on the likely number of priests we will have, each cluster will need to be able to do without one of its current priests.

After careful consideration and prayerful discernment, we have decided that **now is the time for us to implement a revised timetable for Sunday Masses in St. Laurence's, St. Mary's, and St. Patrick's.**

Each parish will now celebrate one Sunday morning Mass as well as a Saturday Vigil Mass. In addition, St. Laurence's will move its Vigil Mass to 4.00pm on Saturday, thus ensuring a spread of Vigil options across the cluster. While each parish will lose one Mass, we believe that we are still providing a good and accessible range of Masses across our area.

This decision has not been taken lightly, it has been made in response to several pressing realities: the reduced number of priests available to serve our communities, the increasing age of our clergy, and the need to ensure that priests can provide cover for one another in times of illness and during holidays. These adjustments will help us continue to offer pastoral care in a sustainable and supportive way.

**We will implement the revised schedule of Masses on the weekend of 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> November this year.**

**The New Sunday Mass Schedule, effective 1st–2nd November, will be as follows:**

- **St. Laurence's:** Saturday Vigil Mass at 4.00pm:  
Sunday Morning Mass at 12.00noon
- **St. Mary's:** Saturday Vigil Mass at 4.30pm:  
Sunday Morning Mass at 10.00am
- **St. Patrick's:** Saturday Vigil Mass at 5.30pm:  
Sunday Morning Mass at 11.00am

We understand that this change may require some adjustment. Many of us have gone to the same Mass for many years and perhaps we have a "Mass that suits us". As your Clergy, we are aware that a change such as this is taking a bit of a risk, but we are ever grateful for your understanding and sure of your continued support.

Our hope is that this new arrangement will strengthen our shared mission and ensure that the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist remains central to our parish life.

Please keep our priests and parish communities in your prayers as we move forward together in faith and, above all, please continue to pray each day for an increase in vocations to the Priesthood for our own Diocese of Paisley.

With every blessing,

**Rev. Eoin Patten**, Parish Priest, St. Laurence's.

**Rev. Thomas H. Boyle**, Parish Priest, St. Mary's.

**Rev. Graham R. Kelly**, Deacon, St. Mary's.

**Rev. Gerard Gallagher**, Parish Priest, St. Patrick's.