

OITC Committee Meeting

20th August 2025 @ 4.00pm

Present: Bernadette Toal, Catherine O'Brien, Lorcan McDermott, Paul Thornton, Gerard Monnelly and Dymphna Tipper.

Apologies:, Kieran O'Mahony and Chrissie Fitzpatrick.

Gathering

Lorcan opened the meeting with a prayer inviting us into an attentive presence to the matter of the meeting.

Points Discussed

Outdoor Mass Review

The Mass on last weekend, the 17th August, was held outdoors under the Chestnut tree in the grounds of Benildus Pastoral Centre. It was presided over by Anne Harte-Barry and Fr. Diarmuid Ó'Murchú. There was a harmony in their presiding, it was evident they had put preparation into it.

All agreed it was a lovely experience and the weather played it's part also.

Dymphna had attended the on-line liturgy on that weekend. She praised it highly. Magdalen had prepared it and enabled very deep sharing on what was a challenging Gospel to engage with.

A number of people have asked for a copy of the Eucharistic Prayer used. It is now available on the page for the Sunday of the 17th August on the website: <https://orlaghinthecity.ie/script-of-service/>

Visit to Benburb Priory

Everybody enjoyed the day overall. It was great to travel there together by bus.

The group felt welcomed by the people there who were enthusiastic about showing us around the place and talking about what they do there.

The Mary's meals charity work was very impressive.

All in all it was a very successful day, from the location, the history, the people and the overall environment it was a full day of experiences.

The committee extended a particular word of thanks to Catherine for the work she put into preparing the day in conjunction with Caroline in Benburb.

Promoting our Activity

Síle O'Reilly has suggested that we should look at ways of promoting what we do, such as inviting the Irish Catholic newspaper to write an article about our community.

We agreed that this has a validity and we should bring it to the wider group for discernment as to the why's and how's. It could be a focus of the next AGM. The committee agreed to discuss it further when the full committee is together.

Roster of Celebrants and co-presiders

We extend our gratitude to Noel for his work in drawing together the roster for each weekend of those who will preside over our liturgies. He is diligent in bringing this together each month.

Page for Co-Presiders

We are putting together a document on what the role of the co-presider in our liturgies involves. Our aspiration is to encourage all to take on this role over time.

Paul has produced a document, we now need to refine it before making it available to all. Bernadette is to take the next step now in how it evolves.

Replacement for Liz Reynolds

Liz needed to resign from her role as a committee member for personal reasons. We thank her for her for the contribution she made over the past two years.

According to the constitution the committee should “consist of not less than 7 members and not more than 11 members”. We currently have 8 members therefore are open to having 2 to 3 additional members. We invite anyone who feel they would like to be part of the committee to put their names forward to Bernadette.

Financial Report

Gerard submitted a financial report to the meeting for July 2025. See the Report on the website.

Gerard confirmed that he now has set aside €700 in cash in order to offer a stipend of €100 to a visiting priest. He is concerned with how to manage this on an ongoing basis, from an accounting perspective, and asks that we look to give the stipend as a cheque in future.

An independent audit of the accounts is due. Dymphna has a person who may be able to facilitate this.

Suggestion for LLL re washing of hands as symbolic Eucharist gesture.

Bernadette suggested that we introduce a gesture of Eucharist by washing of hands during the liturgy as a spiritual addition to reflect on the bread and wine sharing at Mass as in the Synoptic Gospels and the washing of the feet in John’s Gospel. It was agreed to have this included, as an option, in the notes for lay led liturgies.

Kettle replacement and Coffee restocked

We need to purchase a new kettle and also to refund the cost of restocking the coffee to Miriam.

A.O.B.

The committee would like to offer heartfelt thanks to all who volunteer to keep OTIC going by their generous work.

- Door keeping
- Altar preparation
- Furniture carrying
- Leaflet printing
- Tea and Coffee preparation
- Recruiting for liturgy preparation and presentation.
- Our tech team who bring everyone together and spreads our message.

Diocesan Day of Prayer and Reflection for Gaza

Miriam brought to our attention that Sunday the 24th August is a diocesan day of prayer and reflection for Gaza. It was decided to include in our liturgy the lighting of a candle and to pray for peace on this Sunday when we will also celebrate the feast of St Augustine .

Time of Committee Meeting

Catherine asked if we could change the time for our future committee meeting it was agreed to move it to 7pm

Next meeting will be 24th September @ 7pm