

**Orlagh in the City Community**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Minutes Sunday February 22, 2026**

Present: Anne Aitken, Alice Sutherland, Bill Sutherland, Ann Concannon, Anne Harte Barry, Antonia Symonds, Bernadette Toal, Betty White, Birgitta Elliot, Bryan O'Byrne Maguire, Carmel Byrne, Catherine O' Brien, Celine Carney, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Emmet Devlin, Gerry Monnelly, Irene O' Byrne Maguire, Kieran O' Mahony, Larry Fitzpatrick, Lorcan Mc Dermott, Maria O' Leary, Mary Kearney, Miriam Mooney, Odran Doyle, Patricia Devlin, Paul Thornton, Sabina Purcell, Sr. Trinita.

Apologies: Chrissie Fitzpatrick, Dympna Tipper and Margaret Quinlan.

**Opening**

Bernadette opened the meeting, welcomed all and particularly Mary Karney as facilitator.

Mary read the agenda, the mission statement and the purpose of the community.

**Gathering Prayer**

The hymn was *We Need Each Other*

**Nominations for new committee members**

Anne HB and Eileen were elected; there are now ten committee members.

**Task Groups, review of membership**

Welcome and doorkeeping: membership is currently sufficient

Setting up the room: Miriam is to co-ordinate the group, Larry, Noel and Paul by WhatsApp.

Altar preparation: Carmel is to speak with Mary and Sile regarding possible use of WhatsApp.

IT and livestream: Volunteers numbers are satisfactory, Maria has volunteered for website management, Paul is to contact her re upskilling.

Coffee and Tea: Eileen is handing over to Betty as co-ordinator.

Co-ordinator of liturgy scheduling: Anne HB has volunteered to work with Noel and Bernadette. Online contribution to co-presenting is to be trialled when Kieran is present.

Collection and counting: Bernadette and Larry have agreed to do this.

## **Statement of Finance**

The financial statement for 1/11//24 to 31/10/25 provided context to our discussion.

The main issue the treasurer drew attention to, despite the small amount due to St. Benildus, E50 per Sunday, is the recent decline in the bank balance.

In June 2020 it was E29,095, Oct 2025 it was E13, 598,

Jan 2026, E11,663, the estimate for Feb 2026 is E10,000 approximately.

During 24/25 income was E3,682 from the collection box and E3,515 from Standing Orders, total E7,197. E3,768 was donated to V de P, Trocaire and the Good Shepherd Sisters.

The ensuing discussion addressing the decline covered a range of topics: the importance of donating to charity, that the committee needs to be aware of the values and opinions of the wider community, making an annual budget, stipends to visiting priests, the advantages and drawbacks of charitable status. The meeting agreed that the committee discuss the topic further and come back with a report to the group. Gerry was thanked for his work as treasurer.

## **Safeguarding and health and safety**

Bernadette and Kieran are the two reps on the committee. There have been no reports or issues to do with safeguarding or health and safety.

## **Proposals**

Funding: Article VIII of the constitution states that:

'Any member of the community, other than members of the committee, shall be entitled to apply to the committee for community funds in relation to a charitable cause. The maximum amount of any donation the committee can approve for any single applicant or charitable cause should not exceed **€1,000** in a calendar year. The maximum amount of all donations to all charitable causes that the committee can approve shall not exceed **€3,000** in a calendar year. In the event of a requirement to exceed these amounts the approval of a majority of the community is required'.

The proposals before the meeting were that the figure of E1,000 be raised to E2.000 and the figure of E3,000 be raised to E5,000.

Before the first proposal was taken discussion considered possible separate collections and donations for charity. However, as the figure of E1,000 had already been exceeded it was necessary to take the motion which was passed. The second proposal of raising the figure of E3,000 to E5,000 was withdrawn, as we have not yet exceeded the figure of E3,000. It was agreed that Gerry would talk to the accountant about both proposals. Discussion considered donations as a justice issue rather than charity, the need to formulate a budget, possibly organise a finance committee and allocate a certain percentage to donations.

The proposal to remove John Byrne's name from the ex officio members' list was passed as was the proposal that there be two ex officio members until the constitution is reviewed.

The proposal that the committee should review the constitution and present it to the next AGM was passed. Such a review is to consider a finance committee, a budget, a policy document on managing charity donations/ projects, with appropriate professional guidance and in conjunction with the community.

### **Review of Liturgical Practice**

#### What is going well?

Lectio sharing, creativity/openness, online - keeping the same group is very helpful

Variety of celebrants, working relationship with the community – key issue

Variety of liturgies, lay led liturgies

Coffee and conversations, fellowship

Use of technology – online, website resources for co-presenting

Sense of inclusivity and exploring – synodal

#### What would you like to see changed or improved?

Greater online inclusion in co-presenting/ LLL, reading every week, link via co-president

Greater balance between words and silence, use of language especially when leading liturgy

Guidance in general or more specifically in use of alternative resources in liturgy

### **Go public about the Orlagh in the City – Eucharistic Celebration**

This topic reflects Sile's sense of mission, exploring how our experience might be useful for parishes. The committee have discussed this & is cautious of a possible negative response.

#### Community Response

Possible risk of censorship to the community, priests working with us and to St. Benildus.

Another option might be to connect with Tarsus groups or the Monday lectio group.

We could invite parish groups to meet with us to explore lectio with them.

We could invite people to our liturgies on a one-to-one basis.

While YouTube is useful in putting material into the public domain, this may create difficulties. As it is technically possible to control access; this is probably the best option.

A good example of going public is the fact that notes on the readings are currently available in *The Irish Catholic*.

The view was expressed that the liturgy is not only lectio but also Eucharist based both of which need to be fully explored.

The community needs further education before going public.

**Finally, Bernadette thanked Mary for facilitating a very productive meeting.**