

The Parish Council of Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Parish, Basildon

Aims, Membership and Procedure

Aims *It is a recommendation within the Diocese that all parishes have a Parish Council or equivalent. In Canon Law, ultimate responsibility for decision taking in the parish rests with the Parish Priest, subject to the norms of the Catholic Church. However it is clearly the case – and clearly the spirit of the Second Vatican Council – that the best decisions are collegiate. For this reason the Parish Council has a central role in the Catholic Parish of Our Lady and All Saints, Basildon, with two clear aims:*

To support the running of the Parish for the good of all by giving advice on matters brought to the Parish Council's attention and offering feedback / comment based on their observations of Parish life.

To take decisions which address matters where improvements and changes are needed. Where appropriate – and in conjunction with the Parish Finance Committee – to identify and allocate the resources necessary to implement improvements.

Membership

- The Priests and Parish Sister
- All members of the Parish Finance committee
- Three active parishioners nominated by the Priests and Parish Sister
- The Parish Pastoral Assistants
- 1 person representing members of the Filipino Community living in Basildon
- 1 person representing the members of the Indian community living in Basildon.

Procedure

All of the above named are voting members. Decisions will ideally be by consensus, but in the event of a tied vote the Parish Priest will have the casting vote.

A Quorum shall be 6 or more members, which must include at least two of the following: Parish Council Chair, a Priest of the Parish, Parish Sister.

The Parish Council may invite an individual parishioner or expert in a particular field to any specific meeting for any ad-hoc purpose as required. This person would not have voting rights, nor be part of the quorum for the meeting.

Officers

A chairperson nominated by the Parish Priest

A vice-chairperson elected by the Parish Council

A minutes secretary elected by the Parish Council

Duration of office

Tenure of office shall be for three years or less if an officer resigns from a position.

Any member who, without reasonable cause, fails to attend three consecutive meetings will be deemed to have resigned and any such vacancy arising will be filled as soon as possible.

Frequency of meetings

The Parish Council will meet a minimum of four times per year, and additionally as regularly as the membership deems necessary.