

Synopsis of St Joseph & the English Martyrs Parish Pastoral Council
Wednesday, 9th July 2025 at 7.30pm at WCC

It was noted costs for **building/maintenance work** had increased considerably since Covid with various expenses were looming such as filming for windows in WCC, handrail installation at SJ&EM, dealing with issues of condensation at MHR SBW etc. Offertory giving has decreased generally with Easter and Christmas collections declining considerably. Cash giving has fallen while tap machines are being used more often.

The recent **Diocesan inspection at SJ&EM** had revealed the buildings are generally in a good state, with safeguarding and health and safety challenges ongoing. The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, also commonly referred to as Martyn's Law, places new restrictions/limits on buildings including churches requiring those responsible to consider how they might respond to a terrorist attack.

WCC - As the building continues to age, increasing maintenance issues are coming to light which may prove costly ie boiler replacement/floor covering deterioration etc. Rental income is negligible, and unlikely to increase.

Liturgy - Easter services had seen increased numbers again and enquiries from people wishing to join the church continue. The costs relating to catechetics had reached £12k for the previous year. Examples of postcards used by another parish were shared highlighting course options or outreach opportunities. These could be useful to publicise Soul Food Mondays or other offers and widen those reached/involved.

Next meeting: early October 2025