

Parish Council Activities Report

June 2026

Message from Father Ernie

Dear Parishioners of St. Brigid Parish,

Another wonderful prayer-filled year has come and gone, and I wish to thank each of you for your presence in our community. I have been here for merely two years and you never cease to amaze me in your love of Christ and your desire to foster and nourish His love for everyone in your lives.

As you may know, the Parish Council is a consultative body to the pastor as outlined by Canon 563 of the Code of Canon Law and is governed by archdiocesan norms. The council aims to represent the people of the parish, and their primary role is to provide service to the community. Concerns, complaints and suggestions are always accepted, relayed and addressed through and with the council. Since the autumn of 2025, we have held monthly meetings to review pastoral and social activities in the parish. Arising from our discussions are resolutions, replies to inquiries from our community and new projects which have or will commence in the near future.

Currently, I wish to present to you the Parish Pastoral Council Report for 2025-2026. The pages that follow provide a snapshot and highlight undertakings of our community, some of which are spearheaded by our council members, others by various lay committees that exist here within our parish. St. Brigid is a welcoming environment that provides people from all walks of life a place to call their spiritual home.

Each voice matters and just as the motto of the City of Toronto goes, “diversity is our strength”, and we need to be reminded that each of us has strengths, diverse talents and perhaps a little time to give to those around us. Let us continue to come together as a parish community and to be like Christ who “came not to be served but to serve” (Matthew 20:28).

Saint Brigid; Pray for us.

Sincerely,

Rev. Ernesto De Ciccio

Pastor, St. Brigid Parish

1. Introduction

This report summarizes the key discussions, initiatives, and accomplishments arising from ten Parish Council meetings held during the past year. The purpose of this report is to provide parishioners with a clear and transparent overview of parish leadership activities, ongoing priorities, and progress made in strengthening parish life.

Throughout this period, the Council has focused on both the spiritual and practical needs of the parish community. Discussions have addressed accessibility, communication, parish environment, ministry engagement, financial stewardship, and community participation. In addition, the Council has continued to reflect on the parish mission and priorities, ensuring that all decisions support the long-term vitality and pastoral life of the community.

2. Key Areas of Discussion and Progress

Accessibility

The Council reviewed accessibility within parish facilities and parish life more broadly. Consideration was given to physical access and ensuring that parish communication reaches all members of the community. Opportunities for improvement include a railing on the altar steps for Eucharistic ministers, engaging an engineer/architect for access to the church hall, other capital projects such as organ repair and fire code requirements. The Council advised that the creation of an accessibility subcommittee would help to guide future planning and decision-making.

Church Environment and Sacred Space

The removal of certain paintings from the church walls was discussed. Considerations included preservation, presentation of sacred space, and maintaining an environment conducive to prayer and worship. The Council continues to evaluate how best to care for and present parish devotional and artistic elements.

Mass Attendance

An encouraging increase in Mass attendance has been observed. This growth reflects renewed engagement within the parish community and may be associated with seasonal participation, outreach efforts, and increased community activity. The Council will continue monitoring attendance trends to support planning and pastoral care.

Ministry Updates

Council members received updates from various parish ministries including the Music, Hospitality, Youth and Finance ministries. These reports highlighted ongoing service, volunteer engagement, and emerging needs. The Council continues to support collaboration among ministries and encourages parishioner involvement in the many opportunities for service and spiritual growth.

3. Communication and Digital Presence

Website Activity and Statistics

Website usage statistics were reviewed, providing insight into how parishioners and visitors access parish information. The website averaged about 800 visits per month over the past year, with most visits being for the parish bulletin, Mass times, and the Christmas schedule. Trends in page visits

and online engagement help guide communication priorities and ensure that important information is easily accessible.

Website Improvements

Updates were made to parish web pages to improve clarity, organization, and accessibility of information. Ongoing enhancements aim to support timely communication, promote parish activities, and provide a reliable source of information for parishioners. Information related to the parish mission statement and parish priorities can be found on the St. Brigid's website under Parish Life/Committees, Programs and Groups.

Communication with Parishioners

The Council reaffirmed the importance of consistent and transparent communication. Parish announcements, digital updates, the creation of a parish council email and an annual Parish Council report are key tools in keeping parishioners informed and engaged. This report forms part of that commitment to open communication.

4. Parish Identity and Strategic Direction

Mission Statement Review

The parish mission statement was reviewed to assess its continued relevance and clarity. Ongoing reflection will help ensure that the mission statement accurately expresses the identity, purpose, and direction of the parish.

Parish Priorities

The Council engaged in discussion to identify and clarify parish priorities. These conversations help guide decision-making and ensure that parish initiatives reflect both the spiritual mission of the parish and the needs of the community. The Council created a "living document" of priorities. This helped the Council to focus on specific items, such as accessibility, needing attention.

Centennial Subcommittee

St. Brigid's Parish was founded on October 7, 1920. The cornerstone for the permanent church building was laid on October 31, 1926 and was formally opened on December 11, 1927. In recognition of this historic event, the Parish Council created a subcommittee to begin preparations to celebrate its centennial.

5. Liturgical and Community Events

Lenten Season Planning

The Council discussed planning for the Lenten season, focusing on opportunities for prayer, reflection, and spiritual growth. Parish programming during this time is intended to deepen faith and encourage participation in the life of the Church.

Good Friday Passion Play

Discussed support of the Good Friday Passion Play as part of the Youth Ministry. This event continues to be an important expression of faith and community participation, drawing parishioners together in shared reflection.

Potluck Dinners and Community Engagement

Parish potluck dinners have continued to foster fellowship and strengthen community bonds. Spring cleaning, church decorating for special events, and spring planting provided opportunities for parishioners to connect, welcome newcomers, and build relationships beyond regular worship services. Potluck dinners held in December for Christmas and in February for St. Brigid's Day, along with the Ladies' Spring Tea in May, were hosted by the Women of Kildare and/or the Knights of Columbus.

6. Looking Ahead

The Parish Council will continue to focus on implementing identified parish priorities, improving communication, supporting parish ministries and volunteers, monitoring participation trends, and planning meaningful liturgical and community events. Ongoing attention will also be given to ensuring that the parish environment remains welcoming and accessible to all.

7. Closing

The Parish Council remains committed to serving the spiritual and communal life of the parish. We thank all parishioners for their continued participation, support and engagement in the life of our faith community. A copy of Parish Council Report, Mission Statement and Parish Priorities can be found on the St. Brigid's website at: <https://stbrigids.archtoronto.org/en/parish-life/volunteer-positions/>

Members of the Parish Council

Chris Terech, Chair
Marianne Boyd, Vice Chair
Sal Paladino
Brian Green
Maria Raso
Mary Rose Leishman
James Penafiel
Andrea Tafaro
Valeria Ayala
Jacob Kuriakose
Marta Grande Delle Fave
Marco Zonni

Contact: stbrigidcouncil1920@gmail.com