

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
The Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Order 2010
The Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Wales) Order 2018
Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2024
Ecclesiastical Exemption Decree 2017 and Canon 1276

**HISTORIC CHURCHES COMMITTEE FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF-MENEVIA
AND THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM**

**APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO CARRY OUT WORKS
TO A LISTED ECCLESIASTICAL BUILDING**

The Historic Churches Committee for Wales and Herefordshire
c/o Archbishop's House
43 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9HD

SECRETARY: Mr James Crowley
TEL: 07594 931 729
EMAIL: hcc.secretary@cardiffmenevia.org

1 Building:

-Name and Address:

St Joseph RC Church, Water Street, Port Talbot. SA12 6LE.

-Status:

(Cathedral / Abbey / Parish Church / Chapel of Ease / Other)

-Listing Grade:

(Grade I / Grade II* / Grade II / Listable / Conservation Area)

**2 Works Proposed: Installation of handrail to main entrance steps to aid access and egress (there are no existing handrails).
Handrails to be designed to integrate with existing external railings to the front of the church.**

3 Local Planning Authority and Address: Neath Port Talbot County Council

Telephone: **01639 686 868**

Email: **N/A**

4 Local Newspaper and Address: The Neath and Port Talbot Herald

Telephone: **02920 099 777**

Email: **editor@herald.email**

5 Applicant:

Name: **Canon Barry English**

Position: **Parish Priest**

Address: **St Joseph's Presbytery, Water Street, Port Talbot SA12 6LE.**

Email: **Barry.English@cardiffmenevia.org**

Telephone: **01639 882 846**

6 If the works affect a diocesan church, give details of any consultation with the following bodies:

(a) Parish Pastoral Council (if any): **N/A**

(b) Parish Finance Committee: **N/A**

(c) Diocesan Art and Architecture Committee: **N/A**

(d) Diocesan Liturgical Committee: **N/A**

(e) Diocesan Trustees: **N/A**

7 If the works affect a building belonging to a religious institute or society of apostolic life, give details of:

(a) Required consultation undertaken, and its outcome: **N/A**

(b) Any necessary internal consents required obtained for the works, and whether obtained: **N/A**

8 The application must be accompanied by:

- (a) Professionally drawn plans, scale drawings, photographs and adequate specifications, sufficient to identify the building, illustrate its character, and explain the proposals
- (b) A 1:1250 or 1:2500 location plan with the position of the building and ownership boundaries clearly marked in red
- (c) A statement setting out the significance of the site, the impact of the proposal(s) on that significance and explaining why the proposed works are desirable or necessary (see over)

For non-digital submissions, **four** copies of each of the above documents should be provided. In the case of minor works, advice should be sought from the Secretary of the Historic Churches Committee as to whether any of these requirements may be relaxed.

DECLARATION

I apply for a faculty to carry out the works specified in this application and declare that:

- (a) I am the person responsible for the administration of the building to which the application relates or am authorised by that person to make this application;
- (b) the contents of this application are true to the best of my knowledge;
- (c) I do not intend to carry out any works to the building except in conformity with any faculty granted to me.

Data Protection

The personal information you submit to us will be used by us as set out in the privacy policy of the Diocese, Order or Ordinary in which the relevant church is located. You can access the appropriate privacy policy on the website of the Diocese at:

Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia – <https://rcadc.org/privacy-policy/>

Diocese of Wrexham – <https://www.wrexhamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy.html>

Please note, when you access, use or communicate through the Catholic Historic Churches website, the Catholic Trust for England and Wales will collect and use personal information as set out in its privacy policy, which can be found at:

www.catholic-historic-churches.org.uk/privacy

Signed:



Date:

16TH SEPT 2026

Details of this application will be sent to Cadw, the local planning authority and the national amenity societies

No work is to take place until a faculty is received from the Historic Churches Committee.

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HISTORIC CHURCHES COMMITTEE FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF, AND THE DIOCESES OF MENEVIA AND WREXHAM

Statement to accompany application for permission to carry out works to a listed ecclesiastical building

Please attach a statement that:

- Puts into context the importance of that part of the church or feature to be removed or altered; considering rarity, historic or artistic value, liturgical significance, contribution to architectural character etc.

St Joseph's RC Church (Port Talbot) was constructed in 1930 (designed by F R Bates & Sons), built in an Early Christian Style with red brick walls and slate roof. The building has largely remained unaltered since its initial construction. This application is for the installation of new handrails to assist the access and egress of parishioners via the main entrance of the church; the existing structure is to remain unaltered, with the exception of new fixing points / pockets for the railings in the steps.

- Sets out the reasons for the proposed changes and, where appropriate, explain what has been done to address the issue in other ways, before proposing removal or alteration to historic fabric or fixtures.

This issue cannot be addressed any other way. The church has an aging congregation and their access into the church is being restricted through the lack of handrails to assist them negotiating the staircase to the main entrance.

- Explains what alternatives have been considered and what steps have been taken to minimise any damage to the historic fabric and overall character of the church or feature.

We have looked at options to provide a bracket fixing into the wall instead of a second root fixed post into the terrazzo flooring of the main entrance; however, to find a suitable section of wall to connect back to would extend the handrail from 915mm (required length to negotiate the steps and provide a 300mm overhang to both sides) to almost 1700m. With this option you would still require a second post (mounted into the terrazzo flooring) to take out any 'flex' in the handrail, rendering the extension back to a wall bracket pointless. There isn't a realistic alternative proposal to the handrails, and they are required to ensure the health and safety of members of the public accessing the building.

- Explains how the character of the church or feature would be preserved or enhanced by the proposed work

The installation of the handrail would have a minimal impact on the aesthetics of the existing church building. The simple handrail design is in keeping with handrails to buildings of a similar age. A similar handrail recently obtained a HCC faculty at St Mary of the Angels, Canton.