

Parish of Carrickfergus & Whitehead



Finance Report for year ending 31st December 2023

Dear Parishioner,

I take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment to and continued support of the work of the Parish. This includes your contributions through Standing Orders, Collection Envelopes and donations. This Finance Report includes comparisons between last year 2023, with the previous year 2022. One thing however needs to remain constant and that is our faith in Jesus Christ and trying to live the Gospel.

Yours sincerely,
Very Rev Peter Owens. Parish Priest.

Key Points from the Financial Statement

Weekly Offerings (1) increased to £75,415 up by 8% from the previous year. The weekly collection is the main income stream for covering parish running costs.

Gift Aid (2) and the Small Donations Scheme continued to improve increasing to £16,624 this year.

Legacy & Donations (3) These dropped down to £1,304 this year. Last year total was £16,038.

Activities & Events (4) 2023 was the first year since before Covid that we have recorded income under this category, which totalled £6,290.

Interest Rebate (5) This income of £47,127, mainly relates to a repayment of historic debt interest received on closure of the old Solidarity account.

Claims on Losses & Compensation (6) The amount of £122,214 relates to a settlement on a historic claim.

Parish Expenditure - In 2023, we saw an increase in **Cost Raising Funds (7)**, this related to the new income stream from Parish Activities & Events. Changes in National Insurance and Pension costs saw an increase in **Staffing Costs (8)**. Savings in **Energy Costs (9)** and **Parish Estate Maintenance (10)** saw savings of £3,816 and £6,857 respectively.

Parish Profit & Loss (11) – Overall we had recorded a surplus of £178,222 for the year. The exceptional items from the Interest and Compensation amounted to £168,456. The Parish produced a surplus of £8,881 before the exceptional items. This is the first time since 2019 that the Parish has produced a surplus and was largely due to the Energy and Maintenance savings.

Monthly Stipends & Voluntary Collections - This year income totalled £18,967. This allowed the Parish to contribute £649 to the Priests Welfare Fund this year.

Debt & the Parish Solidarity Account - At the end of 2023 we had a surplus in our Solidarity account of £182,378. The Finance Committee will endeavour to continue to build the Parish Solidarity Account up for future years.

Today

How we contribute - Many parishioners now make their contributions electronically using Standing Orders. During this year we had 77 parishioners making use of this system. Contributions from Standing Orders make up 39% of all parishioner Weekly donations.

Environmental and Sustainability Governance - The Parish will continue to look at ways we can help reduce carbon costs by continually reviewing energy consumption. We will continue to be as efficient as possible with our Running and Administration costs.

Administration Costs - During 2023 we continued to increase payments by way of electronically transactional. We will continue to review the ways in which we can increase our income by electronic means, given the higher costs involved when dealing with manual cash.

How can I help?

Banking - Standing Orders, helps in reducing cash handling and saves on Parish administration costs.

Gift Aid - The parish can reclaim the basic rate of tax you have already paid on your donation. This means that a £20 donation is worth £25 to the parish, at no extra cost to you. If you require any help or information with Gift Aid, please do not hesitate to speak to any member of the Parish Finance Committee.

Parish Finance Committee

Patrick Quinn (Chair), Marian Frampton (Secretary), Fr Peter Owens, Paddy Stewart.
Margarita Sloan, Eamon McAllister, Patrick O'Donnell and Patricia McKeown.

Income	Year 2023	Year 2022	Variance	Note
Parish Activities				
Weekly Offering (White Envelope), Loose Plate, Candle Shrines	75,415	69,592	5,823	1
Monthly Offering (Pink Envelope)	14,929	15,572	(643)	
Voluntary Collections (Yellow Envelope) for Priest Welfare Fund	4,038	3,725	313	
Tax reclaim from Gift Aid	16,624	12,736	3,887	2
Donations Legacies and Bequests	1,304	16,038	(14,735)	3
Activities & Parish Events	6,290	-	6,290	4
Rent & Interest Rebate	47,127	258	46,869	5
Retreats, Missions, Pilgrimages	-	-	-	
Parish Shop Sales	3,599	3,749	(150)	
Lourdes Pastoral Centre Income	9,259	8,198	1,061	
Stipend/Priest Salary Top up (Grant from Priest Welfare Fund)	3,555	2,751	804	
Sale of Graves	1,570	(500)	2,070	
Claims on Losses & Compensation	122,214	-	122,214	6
Total Parish Activities	305,923	132,119	173,805	7
Non Parish Activities				
3rd Party Collections (Blue Envelope) (Youth Col., Holyland, Needy Parishes, etc.)	4,759	4,009	751	
Trocaire, Special Collections	5,347	11,271	(5,924)	
School Receipts	-	-	-	
Total Non Parish Activities	10,106	15,280	(5,174)	
Total All Income	316,029	147,399	168,631	

Expenditure	Year 2023	Year 2022	Variance	
Parish Activities				
Printing of Envelopes	396	450	54	
Purchase of Missalettes	910	2,106	1,196	
Cost Raising Funds	5,489	215	(5,274)	8
Staff & Admin costs	18,766	16,558	(2,207)	9
Priests Monthly Stipend (Salary)	18,318	18,040	(278)	
Church Supplies (Altar Bread, Wine, Cleaning, Flowers, etc)	2,876	2,964	89	
Telephone, IT & Postage (Telephony, Alarm Lines, Website, etc)	3,349	4,103	754	
Printing, Photocopier, Stationery & Publications (Bulletins & Connection)	3,486	4,477	991	
Legal, Professional Fees	-	1,220	1,220	
Insurance, Rates	14,457	14,164	(292)	
Heat, Light & Power (for 2 Churches & Parochial House)	7,133	10,949	3,816	10
Repairs & Maintenance (Across the Parish Estate)	10,446	17,303	6,857	11
Lourdes Pastoral Centre & Parish Halls (Running costs)	2,716	6,831	4,115	
Evangelisation & Pastoral Outlays	2,497	2,753	256	
Shop procurement (Stock and Religious Papers/Magazines)	2,697	2,435	(262)	
Diocesan Pastoral Services Levy (Parish annual contribution to Diocese)	12,553	13,785	1,232	
Priests Welfare Fund Payment (Proceeds from Yellow Envelope)	4,204	4,008	(197)	
Bank Fees	623	317	(305)	
Depreciation (Annual Charge for Capital purchases)	16,788	16,190	(598)	
Total Parish Activities	127,701	138,868	11,167	12
Non Parish Activities				
School Payments	-	-	-	
3rd Party Payments from Blue Envelopes (Youth Col., Holyland, Needy Parishes, etc.)	4,759	4,009	(751)	
Trocaire, Special Collections	5,347	11,271	5,924	
Total Non Parish Activities	10,106	15,280	5,174	
Total All Expenditure	137,807	154,148	16,341	
Net surplus/(deficit) for year	178,222	(6,750)		13