



*Beechwood Serenity, 2020 by Gerard Byrne*

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**UPDATE FROM THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE  
CHURCH OF THE HOLY NAME, BEECHWOOD AVENUE UPPER  
2021 IN REVIEW**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**Thank you to all the parishioners, friends and neighbours who have supported the Parish in 2021.**

**This document is prepared and compiled by the Parish Finance Committee, with the help & support of Fr Paul Taylor, and Mary Newman, Parish Secretary,**

**We are also grateful to the members of the Parish Pastoral Council for their updates and input, and for all their work in the Parish in 2021.**

**Many thanks are also due to the volunteers in the Parish, especially those involved in cleaning and upkeep of the Church. Your consistent support is appreciated.**

**The Parish also wishes to thank Bluett Conran Chartered Accountants, and Tom Bluett in particular for support and assistance during the year.**

**This year we also wish to thank Ranelagh based artist Gerard Byrne for allowing us to feature his beautiful picture on the cover.**

*Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” – Helen Keller*

***“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:12-13***

Dear Parishioners & Friends,

Covid -19 continued to challenge us all in 2021, impacting our work, educational, social and spiritual lives in so many ways. Adapting to changing restrictions for many became part of our ‘new’ routine. Even if we didn’t always want to welcome it, it was obvious all around the Parish that the importance of observing guidelines for the greater good, was understood by everyone.

We are grateful to all of the frontline workers in our parish and beyond, for such individual and collective efforts to keep our community safe throughout the pandemic; our nurses, doctors, teachers & teaching assistants, scientists, social workers, retail workers, public transport workers, tradespeople, community response, volunteers, and so many others who navigated the challenges of the pandemic directly. To their families and friends who supported and counselled their daily efforts, we acknowledge your contribution and we are thankful for it.

For those who were impacted by the postponement or delay of sacraments in 2020, we were glad that the latter half of 2021 brought some relief. The Parish team and volunteers worked hard to re-arrange the sacraments for many children in the parish in October, and Fr Paul Taylor was delighted to welcome all of their families back to celebrate at Beechwood.

Many families came to Beechwood in 2021 to mourn the passing of loved ones. The added restrictions and complications of Covid-19 were borne with great patience and dignity by those who suffered loss. We continue to pray for our bereaved friends and neighbours in our masses.

For Beechwood Parish, 2021 was also a year when many foundations were laid for better things to come. The Parish has been proactive in its endeavours around church, music, housing for clergy, pastoral activity, social outreach and building community, and further details are highlighted in this review. It is the aim of our Parish Committees to develop and grow our local community of supporters and volunteers to bring life to events and activities during the year. Details of parish activities are regularly shared at masses, on the parish website, in weekly newsletters, mail distributions and on our Instagram page. We are continually working on our communication and use of media to keep parishioners updated on our activities, and activities of other groups or businesses in the local community. We strive to do our best, but resources are often limited. We would welcome support from parishioners with expertise and time, to help with IT and Communication initiatives in 2022. We are particularly interested in web-designers, media & marketing professionals and content writers. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Mary Newman in the parish office.

In 2022, as part of the Building Hope initiative from the Dublin Archdiocese, all parishes are being asked to consider partnerships with other parishes. The first phase of this initiative will take place in parishes in the Archdiocese in the coming weeks, with a period of reflection and dialogue. In this context Fr Paul plans to establish ‘Building Hope Leadership Group’, comprising members of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Committee together with the Parish Team to help navigate this journey for the Parish. The aim is to find ways to develop and share personnel and resources in parishes to plan for the future. Rather than simply seeking to maintain our present outlook and structures, ‘new thinking and a shift of mind-set in everyone’ are essential (Archdiocese of Dublin, Statement of Mission, February 2022). Updates on this initiative and its application in Beechwood Parish will be shared in weekly and other bulletins as it progresses.

At the time of writing, we are still coming to terms with the implications of the terrible war in Ukraine. As a parish we responded very generously to the appeal in March 2022 with a total of €3,000 contributed to the Diocesan fund which will go to Caritas Internationalis and their relief efforts. Many of our parishioners are also helping as volunteers at reception centres and elsewhere, and some have offered accommodation to Ukrainian families fleeing the conflict. We continue to pray for peace and a speedy resolution to the hostilities.

The primary aim of this Finance Review is to keep parishioners informed on parish funding. We hope you will find it helpful, and we thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

***Church of the Holy Name, Beechwood Parish Finance Committee***

## **Financial Overview 2021**

The Parish Office and the Finance Committee who look after the financial administration of the parish worked hard on your behalf during the past year, and a summary of the income and expenditure for 2021, together with related explanatory notes, is set out in Appendix 1.

The impacts of the pandemic continued to be felt across the Parish throughout 2021, with restrictions on mass attendance and sacrament celebrations in place for much of the year. We were thankful that the latter part of the year gave us some return to more normal services, and we saw many parishioners and friends being able to resume church attendance. The Finance Committee is very grateful to parishioners for their continued support of the parish via standing orders, donations and envelopes, and will be looking in 2022 and future years to increase the level of ongoing funding to ensure that the parish can operate sustainably. Further details on how you can support your parish are set out in Appendix 2.

The financial summary provided in appendix 1 is based on draft financial statements from the parish system and is subject to review and audit as part of the overall Archdiocesan Audited Accounts. The net deficit for the year excludes the once-off proceeds from the sale of 67 Edenvale Road (details of which are provided separately for information).

Overall income for the parish in 2021 fell by approximately €15,100 to €154,300 compared with the total income of €169,400 recorded in 2020, mainly as a result of a reduction in tax refunds (see note 2) which was partly offset by higher rental and other income (see note 3). At the same time, 2021 saw an increase of €47,600 in the operating costs incurred by the parish to €204,800, reflecting the costs of significant ongoing maintenance and improvement costs for the church building, and also the non-recurrence of the temporary Government wage supports which reduced staff costs in 2020

The overall result for the parish was therefore a net deficit of approximately €50,500 for the year; this was broadly in line with the deficits (losses) of almost €40,000 which were incurred in 2019 and 2018, but was significantly worse than the net surplus of €12,200 reported for 2020. Operating at a deficit is not sustainable for the parish, and a key priority for the Finance Committee in coming years will be to find ways to increase income/reduce operating costs to ensure that the parish is operating within its means.

## **Parish Property – General Update**

### **The Beechwood Parish Pastoral Centre (“the Pastoral Centre”)**

In 2021 the use of the Pastoral Centre continued to be impacted by the Covid -19 public health restrictions. Activities were again limited for much of the year but since September 2021, we have seen a return of many of the previous classes and activities, as well as some new ones. All enquiries for use can be submitted to the Parish Office.

### **Parish Pastoral Centre Car Park**

The Parish Pastoral Centre Car Park continues to be managed by APCOA Parking Services, and within the hours set out, parking must be paid for via the APCOA app. The Parish office does not manage the parking or payments, and all enquiries on parking charges should be made to APCOA.

The Parish Team monitors the use of the centre and the car park, and endeavours to ensure that both indoor and outdoor spaces are kept tidy, clear and safe for use, especially for the younger members of our community. This is particularly important as the weather improves and we see more children active in and around the centre; accordingly any items left in the centre or the car park that might be regarded as a risk to the safety of the children and other users will be removed.

### **Parish Houses**

During 2021, the parish completed the sale of 67 Edenvale Road, which was one of the two houses it owned in the area. Marian McQuillan and the team at Quillsen in Ranelagh were appointed to manage the sale for the Parish, and after a successful marketing and bidding process, a sale price of approx. €1.1M was achieved. The sale was part of an overall strategy to raise funds for refurbishment of the remaining parish house, and to allow for funding of other general works in the church that were long overdue and could not otherwise be afforded.

Refurbishment started on 43 Upper Beechwood Avenue (which includes the Parish Office in its grounds), in late December. The property was in a state of very substantial disrepair, having not been maintained or invested in for several decades. A number of significant treatments to the property in respect of damp, woodworm, plumbing and electrical infrastructure have to be undertaken to restore it to a fit residential standard. The property will serve as the parochial residence for the Parish Priest and it is expected that works will be substantially completed in June 2022.

Separate to the work on 43 Upper Beechwood Avenue, work has commenced or is ongoing on a number of other parish projects which were enabled in 2021, by the sale of the Edenvale Road property. The various contractors have endeavoured to keep disruption to a minimum when scheduling and carrying out the works, and the forbearance of parishioners is appreciated. These are expected to be completed in mid-2022, and include:

#### Church and Grounds Painting & Electrical Works:

In March 2021, an electrical survey was commissioned on the Church, and Pastoral Centre. The purpose of the survey was to examine any areas of malfunction in the electrical and lighting system in the properties, which had given rise to safety and risk concerns in recent years.

Following on from the recommendations of the survey, necessary electrical repair remediation work was reviewed, and agreed in 2021, and the electrical contractors booked to start on site in February 2022. Improvements to indoor lighting around the Stations of the Cross, to the outdoor church façade and garden lighting, and conversion to energy saving LED were also approved, given the efficiencies of getting this important work done while contractors are on site. Overall, the upgrade and repair works are expected to cost in the region of €80,000 (subject to final details).

Cleaning and painting works to the church railings were booked in 2021 and commenced in March 2022. These long overdue works are important to maintain and weather the railings to prevent rust and deterioration. Works are being carried out by Brian Flanagan Limited, who are experienced in this area, and total cost for works to all exterior metal work is budgeted at €17,850 approx. In addition, a number of internal areas where damage was identified or attention was considered necessary were also treated and painted, including parts of the interior church walls, the sacristy, the office and the external church doors. The total cost is €11,500 approx.

#### Tea Station:

It was decided in 2021 that the disused lobby to the rear of the church should be repurposed to serve as a Tea Station area to provide for; parishioners and friends gathering after mass or prayer; church reading groups meeting; pastoral care occasions; promoting neighbourhood engagement. This enhancement will mean that the Church will be better placed to allow friends, neighbours, bereaved persons and support groups a space to gather and engage. Plumbing and electrical works are required, as well as some repair and installation of storage and kitchen facilities. Overall costs are expected to be €18,000 on completion of the work, which is scheduled for May 2022.

#### Garden Works:

As part of the Parish's response to the papal encyclical Laudato Si, in which Pope Francis reminds us all of our obligations to look after our environment, Green Edge Design were commissioned by the Parish Pastoral Council in 2020 to consider a design plan for the garden at the Church of the Holy Name, together with a programme of works and costings. The designs were reviewed by Fr Paul Taylor, and the Pastoral Team in 2021. The aim of the Parish Pastoral Council is to create a positive outdoor space around the Church and to contribute to our neighbourhood by promoting natural beauty and biodiversity within its grounds.

Prior to commencement of works Green Edge held an information session to display the proposed overall works / vision and explain the detail to parishioners. Work commenced on the first phase of the garden development in February 2022 and is expected to be substantially completed in May 2022 at a cost of €30,000 including VAT. Works are substantially funded from the proceeds of the sale of the Edenvale Road property. In March 2022, the addition of bench seating in the church grounds was welcomed by many parishioners young and old. A number of parishioners contributed directly to the cost of the benches and their support is very much appreciated.

## **Social Contribution & Pastoral Care:**

The Parish Pastoral Council led a number of community engagements in 2021. It is always open to new volunteers and ideas, and during May at some of our masses Council members will be speaking to parishioners about volunteering opportunities.

Visits to the Homeless Cafe on Grafton Street were started in the Autumn of 2021 and it is hoped this will continue in 2022. Parishioners meet at the Luas in Beechwood on Tuesday evenings to bring donations to the café team on Grafton Street. Rita Lovett led this initiative in the Parish in 2021, but the Parish Pastoral Council would welcome any volunteers to take part in this initiative in 2022.

A new toy appeal and wish-list was launched in November 2021 to help support the children of Our Lady Immaculate National School in Darndale. New toys, games, arts and craft supplies were donated in abundance by our parishioners. Five students from Transition Year in Gonzaga College helped with sorting, packing and safe delivery of three carloads of your donations to Darndale in early December. They heard at first hand from the school Principal about the challenges and difficulties that children and families in their community can face. Being able to make a positive contribution which was so gratefully received was a humbling experience for all the volunteers. It is never too early to volunteer to help co-ordinating this initiative for Christmas 2022. If you would like to be involved, please contact the Parish Office.

Separately a collection of second-hand children's books was also arranged in the Parish and books sent to both Darndale and the Lifestart programme which supports parents and families in Tallaght to stock their libraries. Children's books in good condition can always be donated at any time of the year to our Parish Office and we will find a good home for them.

The Christmas children's art competition was a big hit with our young parishioners in 2021. We were delighted with all of the entries and the fantastic artistic talent displayed. The winning picture was used for the 2021 Parish Christmas card which brought our Christmas message to homes throughout the parish.

2021 was the first year of the outdoor crib, which was put up in the front of the church. Santa very kindly provided some early selection boxes for children at the launch ceremony with music from a choir of local parents from Lios na nÓg and mulled wine for the parents. The feedback to the Nativity display was brilliant. Young parishioners were overheard telling the story of Baby Jesus to each other as they visited the crib after masses in December - what more could we wish for!

Christmas in the grounds in 2021 was beautifully lit by the outdoor tree lighting again. We had three extra trees with lights in 2021 and these costs were covered by a generous parishioner, who wishes to remain anonymous. We are very grateful for this contribution and for the warm glow it provided for our Christmas celebrations and the Christmas spirit at Beechwood.

During 2022 you will see some more changes to our grounds, with investment in new planting and seating as we promote biodiversity and develop our outdoor space for our parishioners to enjoy and to create a greater sense of community. We would like to form a gardening group to help develop the new garden, if you would like to be involved, please contact the parish office.

This year we have to acknowledge again the help of Gonzaga College and their Transition Year Students, who willingly gave their time and energy helping to deliver parish letters and messages throughout the Parish, as well as helping the various collections such as the Toy Appeal. We are always thankful for their efforts and extremely grateful to have such good neighbours and friends.

The Muckross Park Transition Year students also came on board this year to help organise and run the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake event at the Parish Community Centre which was well attended by our younger parishioners. We were delighted to have help from such a great team.

2022 is already shaping up to be a busy year in the Parish, with a number of supports and activities able to start again post pandemic. Home visits have recommenced and communion is being brought to parish homes where requested. The Parish Pastoral Council is planning a number of events around the church calendar, including a Summer barbeque and an evening for elderly parishioners and would welcome your support.

The Parish Pastoral Council are also involved in the "Do this in memory" programme for First Communion and actively assist local schools in its rollout, having these young parishioners at our masses always enriches our ceremonies.

Regular financial support which provides for the upkeep of the church and the running of the parish continues to be vital for us. It is important for the parish to be able to maintain this income, and all of your contributions are appreciated.



## Appendix 1. Summarised Income and Expenditure Statement 2021

The figures presented here are extracted from the information supplied by the Parish Office to the Diocese for the purposes of the overall Diocesan financial statements each year. The numbers for 2021 are preliminary (draft) and subject to audit.

In the summarised statement below, figures are presented for the year (2021, in blue font) with comparative numbers also shown for the previous years. Where relevant, prior year numbers have been adjusted to reflect the final adjustments arising from the Diocesan audit process in those years. Notes explaining the key changes between 2021 and 2020 are also included overleaf.

As is the case for all parishes in the Dublin Diocese, all monies collected during the first collection at Masses in our church, and the Christmas and Easter Dues, are submitted directly to the Common Fund of the Diocese where they are used to support clergy who are in active ministry in the Diocese (including the priests in our parish), and to support sick and retired priests. In the summer of 2021 there was also a special appeal for Summer Dues to help offset some of the shortfall in Diocese funding as a result of the pandemic. The monies contributed by our parishioners for the second collection also go to the Diocese for SHARE, the diocesan fund used to support the building of schools and churches in developing areas and also as a contribution to the central administration costs of the Diocese. (The SHARE collection is from time to time replaced by special diocesan collections such as appeals for the St Vincent de Paul, Crosscare, Mission Sunday, etc.) Because these funds are not retained in the parish, they are shown in the shaded section of the table below for information but are not included in the income of the parish.

The funds collected at Masses during 2021 and 2020 were lower than 2019, mainly reflecting the closure of the Church for long periods in the past two years; the parish is very grateful to parishioners who continued to make contributions for the support of priests in the Diocese and for the Share and other diocesan collections in 2021.

### Summarised Income and Expenditure Statement – Beechwood Parish

All amounts in euro 000's	Note	2021 Draft	2020 (final)	2019
<b>Funds collected locally and paid to Diocese</b>				
First and Second collections at Masses		39.6	33.4	68.7
Christmas, Easter and Summer Dues		38.7	28.3	29.5
<b>Total paid directly to Diocese</b>		<b>78.3</b>	61.7	98.2
<b>Parish income</b>				
Standing orders/envelopes, donations, bequests	1	73.9	84.0	81.9
Tax refunds on donations	2	31.8	45.7	12.0
Rent and other income (mainly Parish Pastoral Centre)	3	23.0	20.5	35.1
Income from shrines (candles) confirmations, weddings, other	4	25.6	19.2	17.4
<b>Total income retained in the parish</b>		<b>154.3</b>	<b>169.4</b>	<b>146.4</b>
<b>Parish Costs</b>				
Facilities (including insurance, utilities, cleaning)	5	39.9	37.0	42.7
Building depreciation, repairs and maintenance	6	50.4	45.5	48.5
Staff and contractor salaries/remuneration	7	57.4	36.5	48.8
All other costs	8	57.1	38.2	44.1
<b>Total costs incurred by the parish</b>		<b>204.8</b>	<b>157.2</b>	<b>184.1</b>
<b>Parish (loss) or surplus for the year (income less costs)</b>		<b>(50.5)</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>(37.7)</b>
<b>Details of Once-off property sale (provided for information)</b>	9			
Sale proceeds from sale of 67 Edenvale Road		1,090.0		
Less: Auctioneer fees, legal & associated costs of sale process		(20.1)		
Less Diocesan Tax on sale		(17.5)		
<b>Net proceeds from sales</b>		<b>1,052.4</b>		

## **Notes to the summarised income and expenditure statement:**

### **Note 1: Standing orders/envelopes, donations, bequests**

Regular contributions are a vital source of income to meet your parish's running costs, and the parish is very grateful to those parishioners who have signed up to give regular weekly or monthly contributions. Income from regular standing orders and weekly envelopes increased slightly during 2021, but was more than offset by an decrease in once-off donations and bequests which are by their nature less regular. Contributions can be made using the Donate button on the website, or by cash or cheque through the parish office.

### **Note 2: Tax refunds on donations**

As a registered charity, the Parish is entitled to claim tax relief from the Revenue Commissioners in respect of cumulative donations in excess of €250 from individual parishioners in a calendar year; this tax relief, which is of significant benefit to parish funding, does not give rise to any additional costs to the donor. There is significant paperwork involved in claiming the relief: the Parish office needs to contact each parishioner who has donated more than €250 to get their PPS number in order to make the claim, and also needs to keep a record of all payments by parishioner, as no tax claim can be made for anonymous donations. A lot of work has been done on this area in the past year or so, and the significant amounts reclaimed in both 2021 and 2020 reflect the collection of tax credits in respect of prior years.

### **Note 3: Rent and other income (mainly Parish Pastoral Centre)**

The Parish Pastoral Centre is used by a number of third parties who pay rent for the use of the facilities. The easing of pandemic related restrictions resulted in an increase in activities in 2021 compared with 2020, although total rental income remained lower than 2019.

### **Note 4: Shrine income**

We saw a very welcome increase in shrine income in 2021 as many parishioners visited the church to light candles during the year.

### **Note 5: Facilities costs**

Facilities costs, which comprise primarily insurance, heating, electricity, lighting and cleaning costs, were broadly similar 2020.

### **Note 6: Depreciation, repairs and maintenance**

The annual depreciation charge amounts to approximately €22,300 and relates primarily to the Parish Pastoral Centre. Repairs and maintenance costs increased in 2021 as certain one-off costs were incurred in on essential electrical items in the Pastoral Centre and full electrical survey in the Church (€8,000 approx). and repair and restoration of altar gates and candle stand which amounted to €5,200.

### **Note 7: Salaries**

The parish employs a Parish Secretary, a Sacristan and Children's Choir Director, and also engages individuals for project work on part-time basis. During the lockdown periods in 2020, the parish received support payments of just over €17,000 under the Government's pandemic subsidy schemes; the 2020 salaries cost reported above is net of these payments. No equivalent subsidy was received in 2021.

### **Note 8: Other costs**

Other costs in 2021 include the cost of the newly appointed Organist and Master of Music, and the Dublin 6 Consort choir.

### **Note 9: Sale of property**

Proceeds from the sale in 2021 of number 67 Edenvale Road are not included in the income and expenditure statement (or in the calculation of the net deficit for the year) due to the once-off nature of this sale. However, the details of the sale and of the net proceeds retained by the parish are included above for information.

## Appendix 2:

### SUPPORTING BEECHWOOD PARISH

The ongoing costs of running our parish, which include the upkeep of the church, insurance, salaries of the lay staff, heating and lighting, supplies for the altar, pastoral initiatives and communications, etc, are financed primarily by contributions from parishioners. There are a number of ways in which you can donate:

Donate via our website: [www.beechwoodparish.com](http://www.beechwoodparish.com)



The Donate facility on the parish website allows you to make once-off contributions or to set up recurring weekly/monthly donations to the parish, and also to contribute to specific projects such as the garden project, flowers in the church. You can also pay for Sacramental Schools Programs, Baptism/Confirmation certificates and Mass Intentions via the website.

#### Envelopes/Standing orders/Annual donations:

You can make regular contributions using a family offering envelope or by standing order or by online bank transfer. You can set up a standing order using your own online banking facility, or by requesting a standing order form from your Bank. Each bank generally has its own process for submission of standing order forms, but if you have any queries, the Parish Office is happy to help where it can. We are also very pleased to accept cash or cheques which you may leave in the Parish Office.

**Strikepay:** Recently introduced in 2021 for our candle stands, the Strikepay contactless payment system allows you to scan the QR Code and Pay with your phone.

### SUPPORTING THE DUBLIN DIOCESE

As is the case for all parishes in the Dublin Diocese, all monies donated during the Sunday Mass collections in our church, and the Christmas and Easter Dues, are submitted directly to the Common Fund of the Diocese.

#### Weekly church collections:

There are 2 collections at each weekend Mass:

- The 1st collection is used to support all diocesan clergy, those in active ministry and priests who are ill or retired.
- The 2nd collection is for Share and allows the Diocese to provide support to parish communities in child safeguarding, education and schools, repairs to buildings, prudent financial management, human resources and training people to work in evangelisation and catechesis.

Parishioners can contribute to these collections in a number of ways:

- a) In cash, at the physical collections during Sunday and Holy Day Masses
- b) Using the 'Tap & Go' stands at the back of the church
- c) By cheque, made out to Beechwood Parish, and handed in to the Parish Office
- d) Via the Donate button on the website

#### Christmas , Easter & Summer Dues

Dues are used by the Diocese to support clergy who are in active ministry in the Diocese and also in support of retired and/or ill clergy.

Envelopes are distributed to each household in the parish in the weeks preceding Christmas and Easter, and last year for the Summer Dues Collections. Envelopes are also available in the church at these times. You can return envelopes with cheques (made out to Church of the Holy Name) to the parish office. You may also make Dues contributions via the donate button on the parish website, by selecting the Dues/Offerings option.