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CHURCH OF THE HOLY NAME, BEECHWOOD AVENUE UPPER

UPDATE FROM THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

2023 IN REVIEW

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you once again to all the parishioners, friends and neighbours who have supported the Church of the Holy Name and its Parish in 2023.

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

The Parish Pastoral Council have also provided input to this document to update on pastoral activity in 2023, and we thank them for all their work in the Parish in 2023.

Tom Bluett and his team at Bluett Byrne Chartered Accountants provided continued services to the Parish this year, and their support is of great assistance to the Parish Team.

We are delighted to have the work of Ranelagh-based artist Christine Kennard, on our cover this year. Using colour, light and darkness, this beautiful abstract seascape highlights the movement, strength and depth that exists in nature.

The Church of the Holy Name is also grateful to its Building Hope partners in Rathmines, Rathgar, Mount Argus and Harold's Cross, for the work started in 2023, which will continue in 2024.

“We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something.”

Mother Teresa

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10

Dear Parishioners and Friends

In 2023, The Church of the Holy Name opened its doors to celebrate 50 baptisms, 63 First Holy Communions, 61 Confirmations, 24 funerals and 2 weddings.

This level of service to the community is made possible with the consistent support of Parishioners and volunteers. Many volunteers provide invaluable support in the daily life of the Church; flower arranging; cleaning; gardening; reading; eucharistic ministry, pastoral care. We are always mindful that whether visitors come to celebrate sacraments or to attend mass or to simply take time for prayer and reflection, the Church is always a welcoming place. Every contribution by our volunteers, no matter how big or small, is important and valued.

If you would like to volunteer or would like to know more about Parish volunteer groups and activities, please contact the Parish Office for further information by telephone at (01) 496 7449 or by email at parishoffice@beechwoodparish.com.

Under the Building Hope initiative, our Parish Partnership Group comprises Rathmines, Rathgar, Beechwood, Mount Argus, Harold's Cross. In 2024 we will continue within this grouping, to look at ways of maintaining and combining the work of all Parish teams and volunteers.

In our Parish masses, we continue to pray for all of those who have suffered and continue to be impacted by conflict around the world. We pray especially for those in Palestine, Israel and the Ukraine.

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.

The Church of the Holy Name Parish Finance Committee.

Financial Overview 2023

A summary of the income and expenditure for 2023, together with related explanatory notes, is set out in Appendix 1. This summary 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. All numbers in this Financial Review are reported in thousands of euro (to one decimal place).

In 2023, parishioners contributed through standing orders, bequests, donations, online payments, 'Tap & Go' payments and weekly envelopes.

Regular contribution continues to be important to allow the Parish to have certainty of income and to plan its finances more effectively. The Parish appreciates the use of such reoccurring payment methods as standing orders and weekly envelopes where possible, but it recognises it is not feasible for all Parishioners and their families. Any form of contribution that parishioners can make is valued and appreciated by the Parish.

It remains important to the Parish to be able to identify payments from individual donors; so that the Parish can also claim valuable tax relief where possible (the Parish was able to claim €33,300 in tax refunds in 2023).

Overall income for the Parish in 2023 increased from €178,600 to €207,400. This increase substantially reflects the benefit of a bequest received from a parishioner in 2023.

Operating costs in 2023 were reduced marginally from 2022, at €205,300 (2022:€206,700). The repair costs in 2023 were higher than expected at €34,000, and included the cost of railings repair and painting, fixing the emergency lighting system in the Church as well as replacement of the boiler in the Parish Centre.

The net cash surplus of €2,100 reported for the year excludes a once-off cost of €28,600 in relation to the refurbishment of the parochial house at 43 Upper Beechwood Avenue. This was a final retention payment that was due to the main contractor who completed the works in 2022.

While the overall result for the Parish was a small cash surplus, it is very important to highlight that without the once-off income from bequests, the Parish would have experienced a deficit in the order of €35,000. This would mean that on a normal operating basis the Parish experienced a monthly funding deficit of €3,000 approximately. Therefore, on a day-to-day basis the ongoing income generated does not support the general running costs of the Parish.

In addition, an annual non-cash depreciation charge of approximately €22,000 is attributable to the Parish.

Finding ways to increase income levels and reduce operating costs continues to be a focus for the Parish team.

Parish Property – General Update

The Beechwood Parish Pastoral Centre (“the Pastoral Centre”) & Car Park:

The Pastoral Centre supports a number of community activities and classes for young and old in the Parish throughout the year. In 2023 we were especially delighted to welcome back the Active Retirement Group’s Christmas Party for older parishioners, the first since 2019.

The income generated by the Pastoral Centre and the car park is vital for covering its running costs, maintaining its upkeep, and paying for repairs. Income from the Pastoral Centre in 2023 was €40,300, an increase of 24% on the income earned of €32,600 in 2022.

Separately, income from the carpark was €4,900 in 2023, an increase of 26% on the previous year (€3,900). It is an important contributor to income and is currently managed by APCOA Parking Services. The Parish office does not manage the parking or payments, and all enquiries on parking charges should be made to APCOA (Website: www.apcoa.ie).

In 2023, upgrades to the heating system were carried out, including replacement of the boiler in the Pastoral Centre at a cost of €6,300. The Parish Team anticipates further work will be required in the Pastoral Centre in 2024, including painting and works to the grounds including hedge planting on the Albany Road side.

As before, we would ask all members of the community to be cognisant of the safety of others when using the facility, and to adhere to the rules of use of the Pastoral Centre and its grounds.

Parochial House at Beechwood Avenue:

During 2023, the Parish made the final retention payment of €28,600 due for the refurbishment of the house at 43 Beechwood Avenue Upper, an important Parish asset. The parochial house continues to provide a residence for the Parish Priest, Fr Paul Taylor.

Church and Grounds Painting & Electrical Works:

In 2023, repair was required to the emergency lighting system in the Church, an important safety feature. Cost of €5,600 was incurred. A replacement microphone for the altar was also purchased in 2023 at a cost of €1,000.

Garden Works:

No major garden works were completed in 2023, but for general upkeep and supervision of planting and maintenance for the church, the pastoral centre, and the parochial house, costs of €8,910 were incurred.

Pastoral Care & Social Contribution:

In Spring 2023, Fr Paul led fifty parishioners from the Parish Partnership group on pilgrimage to Knock. It was the first combined outing of a Parish partnership group, and the Church of the Holy Name was delighted to lead the way.

To herald in the Summer, the Parish served up strawberries and cream to Parishioners in June 2023, during which an overview of the Garden growth and development was detailed by Green Edge.

After the successful September Blessing of the Schoolbags, Fr Paul followed up in October with an even more successful Blessing of the Pets. The Church was glad to report all were on their best behaviour!

In November the Parish hosted the annual Mass for Deceased Parishioners, of particular importance to those who lost loved ones during the year. In the same month the Parish held an evening to mark its appreciation for all its volunteers, and the different roles they play, but also to bring the group together for the first time.

To mark the Advent journey, Wednesday bible readings with refreshments were held during December 2023 with our neighbours in Sandford Church and St. Philip's Church.

In the lead-up to Christmas 2023, after a successful pre-loved Lego drive during the year, a further Toy Collection was taken up for Our Lady Immaculate Senior National School, Darndale. The Parish appreciates the wonderful community support including help with the delivery from local students.

The residents of Cowper Care regularly enjoyed the celebration of mass with Fr Paul in 2023. His ongoing pastoral visits are an important staple to many. The sense of community and friendship that is built and maintained through this support cannot be undervalued. The same spirit led to the organising of a number of extra masses on Sunday evenings during 2023 to facilitate flexibility for busy families. On Thursday and Sunday each week in the Church, the cup of tea offered after mass creates a social window for many to greet and chat with neighbours; and with occasional baked goods provided by Parishioners it has gone from strength to strength!

The Parish is also very grateful to the six new Special Ministers of the Eucharist who underwent training and induction in November, their addition strengthens the pastoral team and support.

In 2023 the Parish Website had a makeover, and a cake sale was organised by the Pastoral Council to contribute to the cost of the new website. The Parish is very grateful to the Pastoral Council team for leading this initiative for such an important information source for the Parish.

Appendix 1. Summarised Income and Expenditure Statement 2023

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 2023 are preliminary (draft) and subject to audit. All amounts are reported in thousands of euro, rounded to one decimal place.

In the summarised statement overleaf, figures are presented for the year (2023, 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 2023 and 2022 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. This Fund is 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 2023 there was again an appeal for Summer Dues to contribute to the Diocesan Common Fund.

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 and Mission Sunday. 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 2023.

Funds that are not retained in the Parish are shown in the shaded section of the table overleaf for information. They are not included in the income or the net cash surplus/deficit of the Parish. The funds collected at Masses during 2023 were lower than 2022, but still ahead of 2021 and 2020 levels.

For information, at the end of the table overleaf, we show the total funds generated in the Parish, which in 2023 amounted to €305,900 (2022: €291,600).

Summarised Income and Expenditure Statement – Beechwood Parish

All amounts in euro 000's	Note	2023 Draft	2022	2021	2020
Funds collected locally and paid to Diocese					
First and Second collections at Masses		71.3	82.4	38.0	33.4
Christmas, Easter and Summer Dues		27.2	30.6	38.0	28.3
Total paid directly to Diocese `	A	98.5	113.0	76.0	61.7
Parish income (cash received)					
Standing orders/envelopes, donations, bequests	1	97.1	68.4	73.9	84.0
Tax refunds on donations	2	33.3	36.9	31.8	45.7
Rent and other income (mainly Parish Pastoral Centre)	3	56.7	47.0	23.0	20.5
Income from shrines (candles), sacraments, other	4	20.3	26.3	25.6	19.2
Total income retained in the Parish	B	207.4	178.6	154.3	169.4
Parish Costs (cash outlays)					
Facilities (including insurance, utilities, cleaning)	5	46.4	44.9	39.9	37.0
Repairs and maintenance	6	34.0	27.2	28.0	23.4
Staff and contractor salaries/remuneration	7	55.2	57.4	57.4	36.5
All other costs	8	69.7	81.3	57.1	38.2
Total cash costs incurred by the Parish	C	205.3	210.8	182.4	135.1
Net cash income/(outlay) for the year	B less C	2.1	(32.2)	(28.1)	34.3
Other key figures not included above:					
Non-cash depreciation expense attributed to the Parish		(22.0)	(21.9)	(22.3)	(22.0)
Cash impact of Once-off / Exceptional Items in the year					
Proceeds from sale of 67 Edenvale Road	9			1,090.0	
Auctioneers' fees, legal costs and Diocesan Tax				(37.6)	
Renovations of Parochial House 43 Beechwood Avenue		(28.6)	(254.6)		
Church and grounds:					
- Painting, upgrades and electrical works			(90.7)		
- Tea station and associated works			(21.7)		
- Church railings			(17.0)		
- Garden development			(32.7}		
Total once-off items		(28.6)	(416.7)	1,052.4	
Summary of total funds generated in the Parish:					
Total paid directly to Diocese	A	98.5	113.0	76.0	61.7
Total income retained in the Parish	B	207.4	178.6	154.3	169.4
Total income generated by the Parish	A plus B	305.9	291.6	230.3	231.1

Notes to the summarised income and expenditure statement:

Note 1: Standing orders/envelopes, donations, bequests

Regular contributions are the main source of income to meet your Parish's running costs, and the Parish is very grateful to those parishioners who give regular weekly or monthly contributions. Income from regular standing orders and weekly envelopes decreased in 2023, but was more than offset by an increase in bequests, including a single bequest of €36,785. 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 parishioners, as no tax claim can be made for anonymous donations. A lot of work has been done on this area in the past number of years to ensure the Parish remains current with tax relief claims, which continue to be an important element of Parish funding.

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

The Parish Pastoral Centre is used by a number of third parties who pay a fee or rent for the use of the facilities. Post Covid-19, the Parish has worked to rebuild and grow this income, and in 2023, income from the Parish centre was €40,300. The upkeep and running costs of the Centre are funded from this income as well as repairs and maintenance costs.

In 2023, works were completed in the Centre to replace the gas boiler, and repair other elements of the heating system. In 2024 further works to maintain the Pastoral Centre are likely.

Income of €4,900 was earned from the carpark, which continues to be monitored by the Finance Committee. Other income in 2023 also included a once-off VAT refund of €4,300, together with fundraising and other income of €7,200.

Note 4: Shrine income and contributions for sacraments (Confirmations, Weddings, Communion, Baptisms)

We saw a year-on-year decrease of approximately €500 in shrine income, where €12,000 was donated in 2023.

Contributions from sacraments (including First Communion, Confirmations, Weddings and Funerals) in 2023 at €8,700 were down on 2022 contributions (€13,800), however 2022 contributions included a number of deferred sacraments from 2021.

Note 5: Facilities

Facilities costs, of €46,400 which comprise primarily insurance, heating, lighting and cleaning costs, were up 3% approximately in 2023. Energy usage and costs continue to be monitored by the Parish Team and significant investment in electrical upgrades in the Church (LED installation) during 2022 had a positive impact, reducing the effect of other cost increases.

Note 6: Repairs and maintenance

Repairs and maintenance costs increased to €34,000 in 2023 (2022: €27,200). Significant repairs in 2023 included the replacement of the gas boiler and installation of a new thermostat in the Pastoral Centre at a cost of €7,000; the restoration of the emergency lighting in the church at a cost of €5,600, and the purchase of a replacement microphone at a cost of €1,000.

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.

Note 8: Other costs

This caption includes all the other normal costs incurred in running the Parish, including office equipment, printing, publications, legal and professional fees, bank charges and catering, and saw a 14% reduction on 2023. Also included here is €22,100 (2022: €24,200) related to the liturgical music programme involving the Dublin Six Consort of Voices, primarily for the 11.00am Sunday mass.

Note 9: Exceptional / Once off Costs

The exceptional item of €28,600 relates to the final payment (retention payment) due under the building contract for the refurbishment of the parochial house at 43 Upper Beechwood Avenue.

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



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.

Tap and Go

There is a dedicated Tap and Go machine for contributions towards the running of the Parish at the rear of the Church.

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.

Stripepay: Introduced in 2021 for our candle stands, the Stripepay 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, Easter and Summer 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 diocesan 'Tap & Go' stands at the back of the church
- c) By cheque, made out to the Church of the Holy Name, 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.