



CHURCH OF THE HOLY NAME, BEECHWOOD AVENUE UPPER

UPDATE FROM THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

2024 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 2024.

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 2024, and we thank them for all their work in the Parish during the year.

Tom Bluett and his team at Bluett Byrne Chartered Accountants continue to support the finance and administration work in the Parish, and we are grateful for their ongoing assistance.

The Church of the Holy Name is also grateful to its parish partners in Rathmines, Rathgar, Mount Argus and Harold's Cross, with whom we continue to develop new relationships under the Building for Hope initiative.

Our cover this year, is a painting by the artist Katsuya, a parishioner and local resident, who has captured 'The Church of the Holy Name' so beautifully in Winter.

I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.

- Edward Everett Hale

“Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.”

- George Bernard Shaw

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John 1:3

Dear Parishioners and Friends

The Parish was delighted to have been able to welcome so many families for sacraments in 2024.

49 Baptisms were held in the Church of the Holy Name this year, and the Parish looks forward to seeing these new young members of the faith and their families in the years ahead.

Fr Paul was delighted to give the Sacrament of First Holy Communion to 70 children this year, and the Sacrament of Confirmation to 75 more, from local schools Lios na n'Og, Scoil Bhríde and Sandford Parish National School.

The Church is always delighted to celebrate weddings, and 6 couples choose The Church of The Holy Name for their wedding this year.

The parish shared in the bereavement with many families this year, as 24 funerals were held in the Church.

Ordinary pastoral activity in the Church touches many families in our Parish; it can provide for family celebration and milestones, as well as providing comfort and support in times of need. Parish volunteers play a very important role in ensuring the Church and its grounds can continue to provide support and be a welcoming place for everyone. We are thankful for all the work and effort of the volunteers in 2024. As always new volunteers are welcome and enquires can be made to the Parish Office.

Under the Building for Hope initiative, our Parish Partnership Group which comprises the five Parishes of Rathmines, Rathgar, Beechwood, Mount Argus and Harold's Cross, continues to evolve; in 2025, Archbishop Farrell has asked Parishes to extend the work of the partnership parishes and to put together a Partnership Finance Forum. It is intended that Parish Finance Committee representatives from each partnership parish would come together under this umbrella to consider Partnership resources and priorities as the groups move forward. Beechwood Parish will participate in this work in 2025.

The Parish Partnership Finance Forum will be made up of two representatives from each Parish Finance Committee in the Partnership Group, and it is hoped this initiative will move forward in 2025, so that the future needs of the faithful can be met.

Change is continuous in the world around us, and the Parish endeavours to meet the demands of change that impact the work and the mission of the Church.

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 2024:

A summary of the income and expenditure for 2024, 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 2024, 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 €28,500 in tax refunds in 2024).

Overall income of €204,100 for the Parish in 2024 was slightly below 2003 (€207,400). The figure for 2023 includes the benefit of a significant bequest received from a parishioner last year. A reduction in overall donations and bequests was largely offset by other income sources, leaving the total income retained in the Parish in 2024 just €3,300 lower than last year.

Operating costs in 2024 were €9,000 lower than last year at €196,300 (2023: €205,300). Following the significant maintenance and repair works carried out in 2023, repair costs in 2024 were 18% lower than last year at €27,900, and included painting of the Parish Centre, upgrades to the boiler in the Church, improvements to the sound system in addition to various other ongoing maintenance costs for the Church building, the grounds and the Parish Centre.

The net cash surplus of €7,800 reported for the year excludes the cost of the new organ (€18,500 net of trade-in), and the related once-off fundraising income of €17,300, both of which are shown separately as exceptional items.

While the overall result for the Parish was a cash surplus, it is very important to highlight that without income from bequests, which are once-off in nature and very difficult to anticipate or plan for, the Parish would have experienced a deficit of €9,000 (2023: €35,000). On a day-to-day basis the ongoing income generated does not support the general running costs of the Parish. Finding ways to increase income levels and reduce operating costs continues to be a focus for the Parish team.

In addition to the cash outlay on operating costs, an annual non-cash depreciation charge of approximately €27,500 is attributable to the Parish.

The Church of the Holy Name Parish Pastoral Committee

Pastoral Work in 2024:

Climate Action Funding Plan

In March 2024 the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), encouraged by Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato Si', and under the guidance of Fr. Paul Taylor, founded the Beechwood Parish Climate Action Group (BPCAG).

The BPCAG is led by parishioner Aideen Loftus and is supported by all members of the PPC. In 2024 the group considered actions that the Parish could undertake locally in the Parish Pastoral Centre environs to help to combat climate change. An action plan was developed, and a grant funding application was drawn up under the Dublin City Council Community Action Programme, which focussed on the central themes of:

1. Promoting sustainable travel
2. Buildings and Energy Efficiencies:
3. Local climate action & environmental actions:

The application to Dublin City Council in August 2024 successfully secured funding of €44,064 towards a range of projects including the installation of a covered bike rack and bike repair station, installation of solar panels and a 10kwh battery, replacement of high wattage lighting by LED lighting, rain planter, food planters, outdoor seating and associated signage. The Parish would like to acknowledge the work and dedication of Aideen Loftus in achieving this significant funding.

In late 2024 work was completed on the LED conversion (€3,689) and the solar panels (€18,160). The covered bike rack (€5,249) and bike repair station (€1,300) were completed in early 2025. The Parish is grateful to the team for their time and effort to coordinate these works, each of which is fully grant funded.

The remaining works under this project will be supervised by the BPCAG and is expected to complete in 2025 including the installation of planters to promote diversity and seating.

Building for Hope Initiative

The relationship with our Partnership parishes (Rathmines, Rathgar, Mount Argus and Harold's Cross) continued to strengthen in 2024. The 'Camino of the Parishes' was held during last summer, and each parish hosted a visit from the other partners and provided hospitality.

Ministry of the Word and Eucharist

In 2024, the Diocese provided a facilitator who supplied training for Ministers of the Word and Ministers of the Eucharist across the partnership. Funeral Ministry training also took place with a view to parishes being able to support parish clergy at times of bereavement and funerals. These sessions were well attended, and the Parish now has 15 Ministers of the Eucharist and 26 Ministers of the Word. 2 parishioners also undertook the Funeral Ministry training.

Voluntary Ministries within the Parish:

Over the next year, the PPC intends to expand the number and range of Voluntary Ministries within the Church as well as recognising those that continue to contribute already. This will involve the introduction of a "Welcome Team" to attend at all Sunday and Vigil Masses.

Parish Child & Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding :

The Parish wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to Eithne Wall and Philip Daly who are our child and vulnerable adult safeguarding representatives. Their work ensures that the parish is compliant with Diocesan safeguarding policies for young people and vulnerable adults.

Parish Social Events

In June 2024, the Parish held its annual Summer gathering in the Church grounds, with parishioners enjoying refreshments served by the Pastoral Committee. Our gardening committee provided an array of plants to give away to the many gardening enthusiasts in attendance.

Bible readings and refreshments took place on Wednesday mornings in Lent and in Advent with our neighbours in Sandford and St Philips - always interesting and enjoyable and thought provoking!

Special Fundraising

The annual Toy Appeal for Our Lady Immaculate Senior National School in Darndale raised €570 to purchase toys and games for the children. The Pastoral Committee held a cake sale to fundraise on Sunday 24 November and are grateful to the parishioners who came out to support the initiative.

In addition, the PPC enlisted the help of students from Muckross, Gonzaga and Lios Na n'Og schools to arrange collection of specific toys in each school which, along with the donations from the Parishioners, were delivered in December to Our Lady Immaculate Senior National School. The school are appreciative of the donations and we intend to continue the programme next Christmas.

In October a Parish Appeal was launched by Fr Paul Taylor to acquire a new organ for the church. Parishioners responded generously, and donations totalling €17,300 were gratefully received. The organ was installed just prior to Christmas, and the Parish is looking forward to its musical accompaniment in 2025.

Appendix 1

Summarised Income and Expenditure Statement – Beechwood Parish

All amounts in euro 000's	Note	2024 Draft	2023	2022	2021
Funds collected locally and paid to Diocese					
First and Second collections at Masses		73.1	71.3	82.4	38.0
Christmas, Easter and Summer Dues		31.0	27.2	30.6	38.0
Total paid directly to Diocese `	A	104.1	98.5	113.0	76.0
Parish income (cash received)					
Standing orders/envelopes, donations, bequests, other	1	76.9	97.1	68.4	73.9
Tax refunds on donations	2	28.5	33.3	36.9	31.8
Licence and other income (mainly Parish Pastoral Centre)	3	71.2	56.7	47.0	23.0
Income from shrines (candles), sacraments, other	4	27.5	20.3	26.3	25.6
Total income retained in the Parish	B	204.1	207.4	178.6	154.3
Parish Costs (cash outlays)					
Facilities (including insurance, utilities, cleaning)	5	49.1	46.4	44.9	39.9
Repairs and maintenance	6	27.9	34.0	27.2	28.0
Staff and contractor salaries/remuneration	7	55.1	55.2	57.4	57.4
All other costs	8	64.2	69.7	81.3	57.1
Total cash costs incurred by the Parish	C	196.3	205.3	210.8	182.4
Net cash income/(outlay) for the year - B less C		7.8	2.1	(32.2)	(28.1)
Other key figures not included above:					
Non-cash depreciation expense attributed to the Parish		(27.5)	(27.1)	(21.9)	(22.3)
Cash impact of Once-off / Exceptional Items in the year	9	(18.5)			
Cost of new organ, net of trade-in		17.3			
Fundraising for organ	D				1,090.0
Proceeds from sale of 67 Edenvale Road					(37.6)
Auctioneers' fees, legal costs and Diocesan Tax			(28.6)	(254.6)	
Renovations of Parochial House 43 Beechwood Ave					
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 (net)		(1.2)	(28.6)	(416.7)	1,052.4
Summary of total funds generated in the Parish:					
Total paid directly to Diocese	A	104.1	98.5	113.0	76.0
Total income retained in the Parish	B	204.1	207.4	178.6	154.3
Fundraising income re new organ	D	17.3			
Total funds generated by the Parish - A plus B plus D		325.5	305.9	291.6	230.3

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 2024, and there was also a significant reduction in bequests following a large single bequest in 2023. As a result, total income from these sources reduced by €20,200 to €76,900.

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 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 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: Licence fees and other income (mainly Parish Pastoral Centre)

The Parish Pastoral Centre is used by a number of third parties who pay a fee for the use of the facilities. Post Covid-19, the Parish has worked to rebuild and grow this income, and in 2024, income from the Parish centre was €45,500 (2023: €40,300). The upkeep and running costs of the Centre are funded from this income as well as ongoing repairs and maintenance costs. In 2024, the Parish continued its programme of works, started in the prior year, to upgrade and maintain the Centre.

The number of cars using the carpark increased in 2024, and this, together with a rate increase to €6 per day implemented in the third quarter resulted in total carpark income for the year of €8,000 (2023: €4,900). The Finance Committee continues to monitor this very carefully.

During 2024 the Parish earned €13,600 in interest income in respect of funds attributable to the Parish held in the Diocesan investment fund. Although interest rates look set to be somewhat lower in 2025, we expect this to continue to be a future source of income for the Parish.

Miscellaneous other income in 2024 amounted to €4,100 (2023: €11,500 including a once-off VAT refund).

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

We saw a year-on-year decrease of approximately €1,100 in shrine income (income collected at shrines in the church where candles are lit for special intentions) this year, with a total of €10,900 donated in 2024 (2023: €12,000).

Contributions received in in 2024 (for the sacraments due to take place in 2025) at €16,600 were well up on 2023 contributions (€8,300), reflecting a double-year for confirmations this year; the 2025 contribution level will be correspondingly lower.

Note 5: Facilities

Facilities costs of €49,100, which comprise primarily insurance, heating, electricity, lighting, security and cleaning costs, were up 6% approximately in 2024, primarily reflecting the impact of inflation. Energy usage and costs continue to be monitored by the Parish Team and significant investment in electrical upgrades in the Church (LED installation) over recent years is expected to have a positive impact in 2025 and thereafter, mitigating the impact of other increases.

Note 6: Repairs and maintenance

Repairs and maintenance costs reduced by €6,100 in 2024, following the significant programme of repairs carried out to both the Pastoral Centre and the Church building in 2023.

Note 7: Salaries

The Parish employs a Parish Secretary, a Sacristan and Children's Choir Director and also engages individuals for project work at times.

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 8% reduction on 2024 as the Parish continues to monitor all costs very carefully. Also included here is €20,900 (2023 €22,100) related to the liturgical music programme involving the Dublin Six Consort of Voices and Mr. Frank O'Donnell Director of Music.

Note 9: Exceptional / Once off Costs

During 2024 the electric organ in the church had to be replaced, and following an appeal from Fr. Paul a total of €17,300 was raised from parishioners to finance the purchase of the new organ, which cost a net €18,500 taking into account the trade-in value of the old organ.

The exceptional item of €28,600 in 2023 related to the retention payment due under the building contract for the refurbishment of the parochial house at 43 Upper Beechwood Avenue. A final retention payment in the order of €6,000 will be paid in 2025 to close out this major project.