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CHURCH OF THE HOLY NAME, BEECHWOOD AVENUE UPPER

UPDATE FROM THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

2025 IN REVIEW

The Building Hope Prayer

Pilgrim God, we give you thanks and praise.

You constantly journey with us even in our darkness and doubts.

We seek your way of loving kindness to walk together as one family.

Open our eyes to recognise you in the faces of one another,
in the breaking of bread and in the splendour of creation.

May the risen Christ sow seeds of hope and new life deep within us.

May our hearts and minds be filled with your Word,
bringing forth truth, justice and peace.

May the Holy Spirit working in and through us do much more
than we can dare to imagine

as we live out our baptismal calling in humble and loving service.

We make this our prayer through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

St Laurence O'Toole, pray for us.

St Kevin, pray for us.

St Brigid, pray for us.

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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 2025.

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 2025, 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 as always 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.

Volunteers are the foundation of the Church of the Holy Name and our Parish. We are indebted to our flower arrangers, our cleaning and gardening volunteers, our Ministers, our Irish choir, our Pastoral Committee and everyone who provides support for the Parish in a volunteering capacity.

In 2025 our parish has continued to work on environmental practices, and the Beechwood Parish Climate Action Group (BPCAG) was formed with the support of Fr Paul Taylor, to focus on sustainability and environmental projects in the Parish. The Parish is grateful to the members for the initiatives undertaken, and for the plans to come.

Our cover this year is a painting by the artist Barbara Lee, a Dublin based artist and a member of Ranelagh Arts. This piece is entitled 'Montbretia Idyll'. The painting and its use of colour captures the vibrancy of a living landscape, the richness and depth of ecosystems within. The bright orange burst of Montbretia from the hedgerow shows us biodiversity and resilience, the quiet energy at the heart of life and sustainability in nature. We are delighted she has so kindly agreed to the use of her work for our cover this year. Barbara's other work can be found at www.barbaralee.ie.

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.”

Psalm 24:1

Dear Parishioners and Friends

As we begin (hopefully) to feel the warmth of the Summer season approaching, and we enjoy the richness of the colours yielded from the hard work of our gardening group, we think of renewed energy, faith and hope for the future.

Our Parish Partnership Group supports the developments and ongoing talks within our partnership grouping of Rathmines, Rathgar, Beechwood, Mount Argus and Harold’s Cross. We expect organic growth in our grouping in 2026.

The Church of the Holy Name opened its doors again this year to worship God, celebrate sacraments, support friends and neighbours celebrating new life, growth of children, the uniting of families, and the loss of loved ones. It is a privilege to be able to continue to do this.

The Church joyfully celebrated 57 Baptisms in 2025 !! It is wonderful to see young families starting their child’s faith journey in our Parish, and we look forward to watching them grow in their faith at the Church of The Holy Name.

For First Holy Communion, we welcomed 70 children this year and for Confirmation, a further 24 children, from local schools Lios na n’Og, Scoil Bhríde and Sandford Parish National School.

Fr Paul was delighted to hear the church filled with the sounds and energy of so many young voices, and to see all the hard work they put into their sacraments come to fruition. Special praise must go to the families and teachers who supported these young people on their journey. This year the Parish has also provided further support with the introduction of a dedicated parish representative, Padraigin Clancy to support the children and families working towards First Holy Communion across 2 schools in our Parish.

Weddings in our church are very special events, celebrating the uniting of families in our Catholic faith. 6 couples were married in The Church of The Holy Name in 2025, and we look forward to more happy unions his year.

For families that suffer loss this year, the Church of the Holy Name provided a gathering place for friends and neighbours to share in their grief and celebrate the life and memory of those who have passed. We continue to pray for the deceased; may they rest in peace.

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.

Parish Finance Committee , The Church of the Holy Name

The Church of the Holy Name Parish Finance Committee

Financial Overview 2025:

A summary of the income and expenditure for 2025, together with related explanatory notes, is set out in Appendix 1. This summary is based on draft financial statements from the Parish financial 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).

The First Collection at every Sunday Mass is sent to the Common Fund to pay all the serving priests in the Diocese, and pay for care of the sick and the retired clergy. The Christmas, Easter and Summer Offerings are all sent to the same Common Fund.

The Second Collection at mass, 'the Share Collection', also goes entirely to the Diocese, to fund their running costs.

To run the Parish, we depend totally on the generosity of our parishioners; in 2025, as in prior years, parishioners contributed through standing orders, bequests, donations, online payments, 'Tap & Go' payments and weekly envelopes.

Regular contribution is vital 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. Consistent periodic contributions, such as monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, and annual donations are an important part of the financial supports of the Parish.

It is important to the Parish to be able to identify payments from individual donors as this allows the Parish to claim valuable tax relief. With a continuing strong focus on this area last year the Parish was able to claim €38,600 in tax refunds in 2025, compared with €28,500 in 2024.

Overall income of €204,600 for the Parish in 2025 was very similar to 2024 (€204,100).

As we have noted in prior years the Finance Committee and Parish Office have been working hard to reduce operating costs, and we are gratified to report that in 2025 costs were €10,100 lower than last year at €186,200 (2024: €196,300), with almost all cost categories showing similar or lower costs than 2024. The only significant incremental cost in 2025 was the replacement of our printer (age 10 year +) at a cost of €3,500.

The net cash surplus of €18,400 reported for the year (2024: €7,800) excludes the expenditure (and related income) for the environmental improvements funded by DCC and implemented during 2025.

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, the Parish would have reported a net surplus of just €4,500.

The Church of the Holy Name Parish Pastoral Committee

Pastoral Work in 2025:

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 the PPC.

A funding application to Dublin City Council (DCC) in August 2024 successfully secured total grants of €44,064 (of which €28,500 were received in 2025) towards a range of projects which were completed during 2025 with the final stage having been completed in early 2026 with the installation of planters and seating at the Parish Pastoral Centre. The Parish would like to acknowledge the ongoing work and dedication of Aideen Loftus.

Posters indicating biodiversity projects were installed in the church grounds to keep parishioners informed of this work.

A Presentation by Eco-Congregation Ireland

Eco-Congregation Ireland (ECI) is an ecumenical initiative that encourages Christian churches across Ireland to engage with environmental issues and promote sustainable practices within their communities.

It aims to help churches make the connection between their Christian faith and environmental stewardship. Churches of all denominations are invited to participate in the Eco-Congregation programme. ECI also emphasizes the importance of prayer and reflection on environmental issues, encouraging members to consider their personal lifestyles and the impact on the planet.

Beechwood Parish has joined this initiative, and as part of our ongoing participation in the programme Sr. Anna Byrne of ECI delivered a very informative presentation last November in the Church which was attended by a number of parishioners.

Building for Hope Initiative

The relationship with our Partnership parishes (Rathmines, Rathgar, Mount Argus and Harold's Cross) continued to strengthen in 2025 with the PPC participating in various joint meetings and training of lay ministries.

Parish Social Events

In June 2025, the Parish held its annual Summer gathering in the Church grounds which coincided with Fr. Paul's 75th Birthday and his Golden Jubilee. Refreshments were served by the Pastoral Committee.

Reflect and Pray on Christian Life followed by refreshments took place on Wednesday mornings in Lent and in Advent with fellow Christians in Sandford and St Philips Church.

Special Fundraising and Social Outreach

The annual Toy Appeal for Our Lady Immaculate Senior National School in Darndale, a DEIS school, raised €1,175 to purchase toys and games for the children. The PPC also held a cake sale to fundraise 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, Scoil Bhríde and Lios Na N'Og schools to arrange collection of specific toys in each school. A group of TY students from Muckross and Gonzaga accompanied the parish team to Darndale in December to assist with the delivery of the toys and donations, and the students got valuable insights into the challenges faced in this community. The management and teaching staff in Our Lady Immaculate Senior NS are appreciative of the donations and the PPC propose to continue the programme next Christmas.

As part of our outreach initiatives, the PPC have proposed to allow one cake sale per month to take place in the church. Each month is for a different worthy cause. Parishioners enjoy the buzz and it is very encouraging to see younger parishioners involved in such fundraising for those less well off.

Gaza

As an act of compassion and solidarity with all those affected by the suffering in Gaza, and with the hostages and their families in Israel, the PPC invited parishioners and others to visit the Church in Beechwood between 9pm and 10pm every Wednesday evening in June of 2025 to light a candle and take a moment for personal reflection.

Appendix 1

Summarised Income and Expenditure Statement – Beechwood Parish

All amounts in euro 000's	Note	2025 Draft	2024	2023	2022
Funds collected locally and paid to Diocese					
First and Second collections at Masses		69.7	73.1	71.3	82.4
Christmas, Easter and Summer Dues		28.6	31.0	27.2	30.6
Total paid directly to Diocese `	A	98.3	104.1	98.5	113.0
Parish income (cash received)					
Standing orders/envelopes, donations, bequests, other	1	75.9	76.9	97.1	68.4
Tax refunds on donations	2	38.6	28.5	33.3	36.9
Licence/other income (mainly Parish Pastoral Centre)	3	68.5	71.2	56.7	47.0
Income from shrines (candles), sacraments, other	4	21.6	27.5	20.3	26.3
Total income retained in the Parish	B	204.6	204.1	207.4	178.6
Parish Costs (cash outlays)					
Facilities (including insurance, utilities, cleaning)	5	41.8	49.1	46.4	44.9
Repairs and maintenance	6	24.7	27.9	34.0	27.2
Staff and contractor salaries/remuneration	7	54.7	55.1	55.2	57.4
All other costs	8	65.0	64.2	69.7	81.3
Total cash costs incurred by the Parish	C	186.2	196.3	205.3	210.8
Net cash surplus/(deficit) for the year - B less C		18.4	7.8	2.1	(32.2)
Other key figures not included above:					
Non-cash depreciation expense attributed to the Parish		(28.0)	(27.5)	(27.1)	(21.9)
Cash impact of Once-off / Exceptional Items in the year					
Climate Action grant monies received from DCC	9	28.5			
- Solar panels, LED lighting, bike shed		(28.5)			
Fundraising for organ	D		17.3		
- Cost of new organ, net of trade-in			(18.5)		
Proceeds from sale of 67 Edenvale Road					
Auctioneers' fees, legal costs and Diocesan Tax				(28.6)	(254.6)
Renovations of Parochial House 43 Beechwood Ave					(162.1)
Upgrades and repairs to Church and grounds:					
Total once-off items (net)			(1.2)	(28.6)	(416.7)
Summary of total funds generated in the Parish:					
Total paid directly to Diocese	A	98.3	104.1	98.5	113.0
Total income retained in the Parish	B	204.6	204.1	207.4	178.6
Fundraising income re new organ	D		17.3		
Total funds generated by the Parish		302.9	325.5	305.9	291.6

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 slightly in 2025, and there was also a small reduction in bequests, resulting in total income from these sources of €75,900, €1,000 lower than 2024.

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 obtain 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 number of years to ensure the Parish remains up to date 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 licence fee for the use of the facilities, and income varies year-on-year depending on usage. In 2025, income from the Parish centre was €40,300 (2024: €45,500). The upkeep and running costs of the Centre are funded from this income as well as ongoing repairs and maintenance costs.

The number of cars using the carpark increased in 2025, and this, together with a rate increase to €6 per day implemented in the third quarter of 2024 resulted in total carpark income for the year of €10,700 (2024: €8,000). The Finance Committee continues to monitor this very carefully.

During 2025 the Parish earned €12,600 (2024: €13,600) in interest income in respect of funds attributable to the Parish held in the Diocesan investment fund. Although interest rates (and consequently our income) were somewhat lower in 2025, we expect this to continue to be a future source of income for the Parish.

Miscellaneous other income in 2025 amounted to €4,900 (2024: €4,100).

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

We saw a further 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 €9,800 donated in 2025 (2024: €10,900).

The pastoral programme of preparation for the First Holy Communion and Confirmation is supported by a requested contribution of €50 from each family. As expected, total contributions of €11,800 from sacraments in 2025 were lower than last year (2024: €16,600) which was a double-year for Confirmations.

Note 5: Facilities

Facilities costs of €41,800, which comprise primarily insurance, heating, electricity, lighting, security and cleaning costs, were €7,300 (-15%) lower than in 2024, primarily reflecting the positive cost impact of the significant investment in electrical upgrades (mainly LED installation) in the Church and Pastoral Centre over recent years which has mitigated the impact of other increases.

Note 6: Repairs and maintenance

Following the significant programme of repairs carried out to both the Pastoral Centre and the Church building in 2023, repairs and maintenance costs continued to reduce, and the total in 2025 of €24,700 was €3,200 lower than 2024.

Note 7: Staff and contractor salaries/remuneration

The Parish employs a Parish Secretary, a Sacristan and Children's Choir Director. Total salary costs amounted to €54,700 in 2025 (€55,100 in 2024).

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.

Also included in other costs are payments amounting to €19,900 (2024: €20,900) in relation to the specific services of the Master of the Music (organist) and the Dublin Consort of Voices (singers) who served the parish liturgical celebrations during 2025.

Note 9: Exceptional / Once off Costs

As noted above, the Parish was able to spend a total of €28,500 during 2025 under an ongoing programme of environmental grants from Dublin City Council. This income and expenditure has been excluded from our normal "operating" costs as the once-off costs were fully covered by the grants.