



# HOLY FAMILY PARISH BELFAST

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the YEARS ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2022

June 2023

Dear parishioners,

I would like to begin by thanking you for the warm welcome you extended to Fr. Robert and myself since we were appointed to the parish in August 2022. Your welcome has helped us to settle and feel at home.

It is important to keep parishioners informed and up to date about the finances of the parish. Last year no financial statement was provided. Apologies for that. It means that you are now being presented with accounts for two years – for the years ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and 2022.



In relation to parish finances, the first point I wish to make is to express my **deep gratitude for the generosity** of so many parishioners to parish finances. You continue to support the parish financially in so many ways, especially through the weekly collection/standing order/direct debit, through the parish draw, through general donations, through legacies and through your support of special events such as the Christmas Fair and Antiques Sales. Your use of the Gift Aid scheme also brings in a significant income to the parish.

Recent years have brought many challenges to families and homes – not least on the financial front. COVID affected us all and then the cost-of-living increases have had a huge impact on every family and household. We all know the effect of inflation on grocery bills and energy bills. Despite all of these financial pressures, parishioners continue to be so generous. For that generosity, thank you.

COVID pressures and inflation pressures have also had a significant effect on parish finances. While the number of parishioners attending Mass has increased again as COVID restrictions eased, Mass attendance figures have not returned to pre-pandemic levels, and this has had an impact on parish income. The use of the parish centre has declined significantly after the pandemic and this too is having financial consequences.

On the expenditure side, the inflationary pressures have affected the costs of almost everything, but most notably our energy bills have increased dramatically.

With this squeeze on both income and expenditure sides, it has meant that the parish has run at an operational loss for both 2021 and 2022. This is something the parish finance committee is monitoring carefully.

*(Continued on page 4)*



<b>Income</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>31/12/2021</b>	<b>31/12/2022</b>	<b>Movement (£)</b>
<b>Collections</b>				
Weekly Offertory Collection		131,091.84	130,608.79	(483.05)
Loose Plate Collection		4,459.98	14,940.47	10,480.49
Candle / Shrine Donation Boxes		2,107.08	5,189.52	3,082.44
Monthly Offertory Collection		34,752.02	27,628.34	(7,123.68)
Easter, Autumn & Christmas Collections		11,548.08	7,820.30	(3,727.78)
Non Parish Collections		15,818.95	14,089.80	(1,729.15)
Ukraine and Franciscan Brothers collections		0.00	6,535.00	6,535.00
Collections for Canon Murray, Fr Strain and Fr Morely		0.00	5,863.00	5,863.00
<b>Donations Legacies and Bequests</b>				
Donations, Legacies and Bequests		38,010.92	26,813.47	(11,197.45)
<b>Gift Aid</b>				
Gift Aid - Tax Recovered	1	37,165.20	36,566.12	(599.08)
<b>Other Income</b>				
Rental Income		21,320.00	35,912.25	14,592.25
Priests' Welfare Received		8,824.76	7,458.15	(1,366.61)
Parish Centre/Hall Income		2,789.00	4,464.60	1,675.60
Insurance Claims		0.00	1,684.01	1,684.01
Bank Interest		135.01	143.99	8.98
Religious Papers, Periodicals, Pamphlets		35.00	0.00	(35.00)
<b>Fundraising</b>				
Fundraising General - Parish Draw		64,471.09	30,554.80	(33,916.29)
Fundraising - Building & Maintenance Fund		85.00	0.00	(85.00)
Fundraising - Christmas Fair and Antique Fair		0.00	12,317.25	12,317.25
<b>Department of Education Funding</b>				
School receipts		1,367,461.12	593,123.58	(774,337.54)
		<b>1,740,075.05</b>	<b>961,713.44</b>	<b>(778,361.61)</b>

## Notes

### 1. Gift Aid

In 2021 the Parish was able to claim £37k gift aid and £36k in 2022, this is an invaluable source of income for the Parish. By signing a form, any parishioner who pays income tax can have his or her contribution increased by approximately 20p for every £1, via a tax refund, paid directly from HMRC to the Parish. The Parish needs to make maximum use of this.

### 2. Standing Orders/Loose Plate and Dona Plate, Website Donations

A number of parishioners already use standing orders to make regular contributions to the parish, this is simple to set up and ensures the Parish receives 100% of your donation. If PayPal is used there is a charge to the Parish on the contributions received.

On the Holy Family Parish website there is a facility to make online donations through **DONA**. Simply click on the **DONATE** button.

Loose plate collections totalled £14,790 for 2022, if these were made via envelopes, standing order or Dona Plate, the Parish would be able to recover Gift Aid.

The Parish have installed a contactless card reader in each church, once up and running, this will allow parishioners to make contributions using a debit/card when they visit the church. The set up process is simple and will allow the Parish to claim Gift Aid on all contributions received.

### 3. Solidarity Fund

The parish owed the Solidarity Fund £975,254.33. Due to the challenges of Covid and the higher running costs experienced over the last couple of years, we have been unable to make any payments to reduce this balance. However, the debt was reduced as a result of:

- an insurance claim in respect of lost income for the 2021 year, which amounted to £14,781.21, and
- an interest rebate repayment from the Solidarity Fund of £124,244.00.

As a result, our debt now stands at £836,229.12.

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>31/12/2021</b>	<b>31/12/2022</b>	<b>Movement (£)</b>
<b>Salaries and Wages</b>			
Gross Salaries & Wages	96,895.67	109,622.91	12,727.24
Priests' Stipends	42,384.00	38,548.00	(3,836.00)
Supply Priests	0.00	1,630.00	1,630.00
Priest's Welfare	12,740.86	4,358.79	(8,382.07)
<b>Annual charges and levies</b>			
Pastoral Levy	25,578.00	26,841.00	1,263.00
Cathedratica	1,060.00	1,112.00	52.00
Provident Fund	1,575.00	1,350.00	(225.00)
Bank Charges & Fees	1,767.13	1,468.01	(299.12)
<b>Parish Running Costs</b>			
Heat & Light	41,330.21	66,773.98	25,443.77
Repairs & Maintenance - Property and Equipment	5 35,516.20	62,288.23	26,772.03
Rent, Rates and Insurances	34,190.96	34,631.04	440.08
Printing, Stationery and Postage	5,495.64	8,028.01	2,532.37
Liturgical Consumables	2,784.70	6,645.94	3,861.24
IT Costs	3,431.41	4,246.11	814.70
Hospitality/Parish events	4,470.00	3,676.93	(793.07)
Votive Candles	822.14	3,238.27	2,416.13
Telephones	2,504.00	2,888.70	384.70
Christmas Fair	0.00	1,963.56	1,963.56
Collection Envelopes	1,690.00	1,690.00	0.00
Religious Papers, Periodicals, Pamphlets, Books etc	689.30	1,028.20	338.90
Retreats, Training, Seminars etc	1,152.35	803.62	(348.73)
Legal Fees	0.00	800.00	800.00
Bulletins & Missalettes	728.00	102.50	(625.50)
<b>Parish Draw</b>			
Parish Draw	45,175.00	21,300.00	(23,875.00)
<b>Collections expenditure</b>			
Non Parish Collections (paid onwards to Diocese)	14,794.00	13,108.35	(1,685.65)
Ukraine and Franciscan Brothers Collection	0.00	6,535.00	6,535.00
Collections for Canon Murray, Fr Strain and Fr Morely	0.00	5,863.00	5,863.00
<b>Department of Education Expenditure</b>			
School Payments	1,367,097.14	604,278.33	(762,818.81)
	<b>1,743,871.71</b>	<b>1,034,820.48</b>	<b>(709,051.23)</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure):</b>	<b>(3,796.66)</b>	<b>(73,107.04)</b>	<b>(69,310.38)</b>

## Notes Continued

### 4. Parish Centre

In 2021 the ordinary Parish Centre income was £2,789, and £4,464 was earned in 2022.

The expenses to run the Parish Centre for 2022 were £32,922.

The usage of the hall has declined significantly, particularly since Covid and these figures highlight that the Parish Centre is running at a significant loss. This means we will have to consider the Parish Centre in our overall decision making in relation to the Church of the Resurrection site.

### 5. Church of the Resurrection ringfenced expenditure

Repairs & Maintenance – Property & Equipment for 2022 include £18,804.07 which is ringfenced expenditure in respect of the church of the Resurrection.

Without seeking to put additional burdens on parishioners who contribute regularly, we are looking at ways to increase income and reduce expenditure, to ensure a sounder financial footing as we move forward. As mentioned above, one significant source of income to the parish is through Gift Aid. Thanks to all those parishioners who have signed up for this. If you have not already signed up for Gift Aid, I would encourage you to do so because this is a simple way in which your current donations can generate additional income for the parish. If you are interested in finding out more about Gift Aid, please contact the parish office.

Turning now to longer term financial and property issues, last year, after consultation with parishioners, the decision was finalised to demolish the old church of the Resurrection. Parishioners may be wondering why there has been little progress on the ground. Work has been going on in the background. It has not been straightforward and the costs for demolition have increased dramatically. As a result, we are currently exploring other possibilities for this site. In practice, these considerations need to link in with the Diocesan Pathways to the Future initiative and with the parish's property needs as we plan for the future. As soon as we are in a clearer position about various options, we will report back to parishioners.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who assist in any way in the financial administration of the parish. Thanks to those who organise and take up the collection at Mass. Thanks to the counting team volunteers. Thanks to all those who make the parish draw possible and so successful. Thanks to all those who made the Christmas Fair and the Antiques Fair events possible. Thanks are also owed to Nikki in the parish office and Raymond Noade for their work on the parish finances throughout the year. Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Parish Finance Committee for their time, ongoing work, support and sound advice.



Talking about money and parish finances is not easy and it is not the priority when it comes to parish life. However financial matters are a practical necessity if we are to fulfil our mission. Even in the early Church period (as reflected in the Acts of the Apostles), financial practicalities had to be addressed and that was the immediate reason for deacons being appointed. So, once again thank you everyone for your generosity and support to our parish throughout 2021 and 2022.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Spence". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Fr. Michael Spence

(and the Parish Finance Committee)

