

Copy of the announcement made at the masses of 19-20 November 2022

In 2021, the parish made a net income of €1,380, giving us a closing balance of €74,784 in the combined bank accounts as at 31 December 2021.

In total, our expenditure throughout the year was €78,085. Our two biggest costs were staff costs (€36,738) and repairs and maintenance of the church and parochial houses (€31,397), which account for just under 90% of our total expenditure. Both of these items have increased substantially since 2019 by almost €15k in total.

Our income increased by approximately €11k to €79,465, which was to be expected given we were coming out of COVID, and masses could restart in person. Our main sources of income were as follows:

1. Standing orders - €22k
2. TWSS Income - COVID pandemic support which has since discontinued - €22k
3. Tax refund on donations - €10k
4. Other donations - eg yellow cash envelopes and bequest donations - €27k

Whilst the headline figure that the parish increased its bank balance this year looks nice from the outset, I want to warn of high levels of expense incurred in 2022 which relate to 2021, or prior. These costs total €27k. In addition, the COVID pandemic relief (€22k) is now a source of income no longer available to us, as was approximately €4k in donations from a single parishioner which will not be repeated.

Our current bank balance (from end October) is €61k, meaning that so far this year we have already made a loss of €14k.

These additional costs are detailed as follows:

1. Garden maintenance and grass cutting contracts from pre-COVID in to 2021- €6k
2. Support for the non-Catholic schools in the parish for the administration of the sacraments - €4k.
3. €15k of costs regarding much needed renovations to both parochial houses in 2021.
4. Charges for the accounting software for 2020 and 2021 (€1.5k).

One major cost we know is coming is to try and fix the leaking roof. Above the second station of the cross, there is a constant leak which appears when there is heavy rain - we expect this to cost approximately €30-40k (approximate guess - but I'd say 4x an average house) if a full roof replacement is needed, which is currently being assessed. If less, then it may cost c€10k.

Beyond this, we are expecting that our routine expenditure going forwards will exceed our income by approximately €5k per year. This then leaves us little space for any extraordinary expenditures going forwards other than to eat into our bank balance, which is obviously not infinite.

As such, the other major aim of the committee is to fundraise - we need to make smarter use of our income streams (such as reclaiming tax income on them) and we need to emphasise the costs directly associated with our masses.

Alongside this, we are also starting to look at expenses - seeing if we can get the same/similar goods from elsewhere (eg utility provider) but the benefits of this will not outstrip our current deficit.

We're aiming that next year we will give a financial update in June. This year has been a special one, with us coming out of COVID, a new Finance Committee, two secretaries and change of clergy - as such we've been a little delayed to present to the wider parish community beyond what we'd like to.