

Parish of Our Lady's Nativity - Leixlip

Parish Finance Committee Report - October 2024

Parish Finance Committee (PFC)

The PFC is a group of parishioners tasked with advising our parish priest, Fr. O'Brien, on the management of the financial and related aspects of the parish in line with the guidance and structures set out by the Archdiocese of Dublin. The current members of the PFC are Fr. O'Brien, Mary Purcell, Tom Neville, Mairead Ryan, Elaine Lloyd, Jo Kelly, David Gantly (Secretary) and John Walsh (Chairperson).

This report sets out some of the significant projects ongoing in our parish and also gives a synopsis of the financial standing of our parish.

Church Heating System

In our last report to the parish, we flagged the need to replace the existing church heating system.

The existing heating systems in the church is a hot air system heated by a gas fired burner. The system is very effective to the extent that it provides heat in the church when it is required.

The negatives are that the system is c33 years old and we were advised by the engineers that the system is beyond repair in the event of a serious fault developing.

On the basis that the existing heating system is effectively obsolete, it was decided that the system should be replaced in a planned fashion. The work of reviewing the options for replacing the system was delegated to the Parish Finance Committee.

Given the scale and likely costs of the project and mindful of the need to examine alternative "green" heating options, the PFC made a decision to retain the services of heating consultants, Galileo Heating Services, to make recommendations for a replacement/alternative system.

The Galileo Report examined five alternative heating options and concluded with a clear recommendation in favour of replacing the existing system with a like-for-like system.

Other options were discounted on a cost, practicality or operational efficiency basis.

The principal benefits of the recommended like-for-like replacement option include the following:-

1. The system is significantly the cheapest option of those examined.
2. The installation involves little or no changes to the structure of the church.
3. The system will result in reduced noise levels, improved air dispersion and enhanced heat management in the church.
4. The system controls will give improved system management and reduce fire risks.
5. The system will result in reduced gas usage through improved operating efficiency

The new heating system will cost €131,000 on a fixed price contract basis.

The PFC made an application to the Albert Gubay Foundation for funding towards this project and were delighted to be approved a grant of €30,000. The Albert Gubay Foundation has been a generous benefactor to Our Lady's Nativity parish in the past and we are very grateful to the foundation for their continuing and generous support. The net cost of the new heating system to the parish after taking into account the Gubay Foundation grant will be €101,000. We are fortunate to be able to meet the costs of this project from our own resources thanks in the main to a substantial donation from 2 parishioners in 2013 and the interest earned on these funds in the intervening years.

The design, procurement and plant manufacturing stages of this project have been detailed and protracted*. Thankfully, all the preparatory work is now complete and the actual installation will commence on the 7th Oct. Most of the work will be concentrated in the attic space above the sacristy and there should be minimum disruption within the church. The installation and commissioning of the new system is expecting to be completed by the end of Oct

Please Note. To facilitate the removal of the old heating system and the installation of the new system, hoarding will be erected beside Our Lady's shrine at the rear of the church. This hoarding will block off access around the back of the church for a period of approx. two weeks.

**Throughout the lengthy design and procurement process, we have received invaluable help from parishioner, Brian Geraghty, and from John Stafford and we are very grateful to both for their time, patience and guidance.*

Other projects completed in the parish.

- Works in the sanctuary have been completed.
- The lighting on the altar has been upgraded.
- A new organ has been installed in the church.