

- Part of the carpark has been repaired and resurfaced. In this regard the PFC would like to gratefully acknowledge the contributions of Scoil Ui Dhalaigh, the Parish Centre and one of the businesses in Leixlip towards the costs of this work.
- The bathrooms of one of the presbyteries has been replaced and the houses painted.

### **Forthcoming Projects**

- Repairs and resurfacing of the pathway beside the Parish Centre.
- Treatment of the path from the main door of the church to the Leixlip gate.
- Installation of a sound system for the new organ.

Note. We had previously signalled the possibility of replacing the carpets in the church. The PFC sought the views of a number of carpet suppliers in regard to the existing carpets in the church. The consensus view from these suppliers was that, whereas the carpet was worn in some parts, in general the carpet is in good condition and is not in need of immediate replacement. On this basis, this project has been deferred.

### **Church Car Park**

The PFC is aware that the church car park is extensively used by car owners other than those attending the church or parish centre. This usage impacts parking availability for church users mainly on occasions when there are funerals in the church. This usage also increases the wear and tear on the car park surface, a cost that has to be borne by the church/parishioners.

A detailed survey of the church carpark was undertaken by the PFC in 2023 with a view to ascertain the scale of this usage. While this report established that there were approx. 30/40 habitual “non-parish” users, a decision was made that no further action would be taken in relation to charging for this usage but that the matter be kept under review.

### **Church Funding**

As parishioners of Our Lady’s Nativity church, we can be rightly proud of our fantastic record of support for our church and for the Diocesan and various other collections taken up in the church.

It is not the purpose of this newsletter to look for increased contributions to our church. You give generously and you deserve every credit for your generosity.

We are, however, mindful that the cost of the new heating system will substantially deplete our reserves and that declining incomes and increasing costs are also having an effect on our funding. In this regard, we would like to highlight one “easy” option that can have a significant effect on fundraising values at a very low cost to the parishioners.

The Irish government operates a scheme by which registered charities can claim tax back on donations over €250 in any year.

The effect of this is best illustrated by an example.

1. Parishioner contributes €20 per month > Church gets **€240 pa** ( 12 x €20)
2. Parishioner contributes €21 per month > Church gets **€365 pa** ( 12 x €21 + tax back €113)  
ie for those parishioners currently contributing €20 a month, and extra €1per month will increase the value of the contribution to the parish by over **50%**!

This €250 threshold applies to any contributions in a year, whether weekly, monthly or once off.

### **Financial Results**

The Income & Expenditure account and Balance Sheet for the years to Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 and 2022 are attached. The accounts to Dec 2023 show a deficit of €16,668 for the year while 2022 shows a surplus of €14,435 for the year.

Net bank balances at the 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2023 were Parish €241k and Parish Centre €42k.

Current bank balances as at Sept 2024 are - Parish €242k, Parish Centre €47k noting that the church heating and other approved projects will cost a net €120k of the parish funds.

### **Conclusion**

The above details and attached accounts are a brief summary of the status of the Parish Finances and the activities undertaken by the PFC over the past two years.

If you have any queries or would like any further details in relation to the work of the PFC please email

[OLN.parityfinancecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:OLN.parityfinancecommittee@gmail.com)

A copy of this newsletter will be posted on the parish website.

***John Walsh***

Chairperson

Parish Finance Committee