



# WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE MONEY YOU GIVE TO THE PARISH

## Why should we give money to the Church?

“Christ 's faithful have the obligation to provide for the needs of the Church, so that the Church has available to it those things which are necessary for divine worship, for apostolic and charitable work and for the worthy support of its ministers” (Canon 222 of the Code of Canon Law)

Our Parish has two financial offering requests during Mass. Contributions can be made through Planned Giving Envelopes, “Tap and Go” machines in the Church, monthly direct debit and credit card deductions, Qkr! online or via the App on smartphones, notes and coins in the collection bags or special one-off donations online or by cash.

The first offering request is to support all of the clergy of our Archdiocese, while the second one supports your Parish. Additionally, our Parish participates in Special Annual Collections, where the funds raised are allocated to specific causes or appeals including the following:

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|--|--|
| Seminarians Good Shepherd Sunday (Easter)      | Project Compassion (Lent)                      |
| Good Friday support for Holy Places            | Propagation of the Faith (July)                |
| Seafarer’s Appeal (July)                       | Father’s Day Retired Clergy Appeal (September) |
| World Mission Sunday (October)                 | Archbishop’s Christmas Appeal                  |
| Vinnies Winter, Twinning and Christmas Appeals |  |

## What is the money used for?

### Archdiocesan Clergy Support (*the First Collection*)

Funds from collections, Easter and Christmas Dues, and Baptism and Marriage fees are deposited into the Central Presbytery Fund. This fund supports all clergy in the Archdiocese for:

- Clergy remuneration, holiday pay, superannuation, Long service and sabbatical leave.
- Presbytery expenses for housekeeping.
- Archdiocesan Sustentation (stipends for the Archbishop, Chancellor, Vicar General and Seminarians).
- The Clergy Retirement Foundation (supporting our sick and retired bishops and priests).
- Support of needy clergy.

Any yearly surplus is allocated to the Archdiocesan Clergy Remuneration Fund, which assists priests both locally and nationally. This ensures that more affluent parishes contribute to the support of clergy in financially struggling communities.

### Parish Support (*the Second Collection*)

The second collection is deposited into the Parish bank account together with general and specific donations, hall hire fees, and other miscellaneous income. The management of these funds falls under the responsibility of the Parish Priest in consultation with the Parish Finance Committee. These funds undergo an annual audit by the Archdiocesan Financial Services Office. The funds are allocated for:

- All Parish running costs (administration and office expenses, cleaning, utilities, rates and repairs and maintenance for the church, hall and presbytery) and other minor parish expenditure
- Parish staff remuneration and costs
- Clergy car expenses
- Sacramental and religious education resources
- All insurances
- Donations, Archdiocesan Levies and the hospital chaplaincy
- Capital items including Church/Hall/Presbytery major repairs and improvements
- Interest and principal on the Parish loan

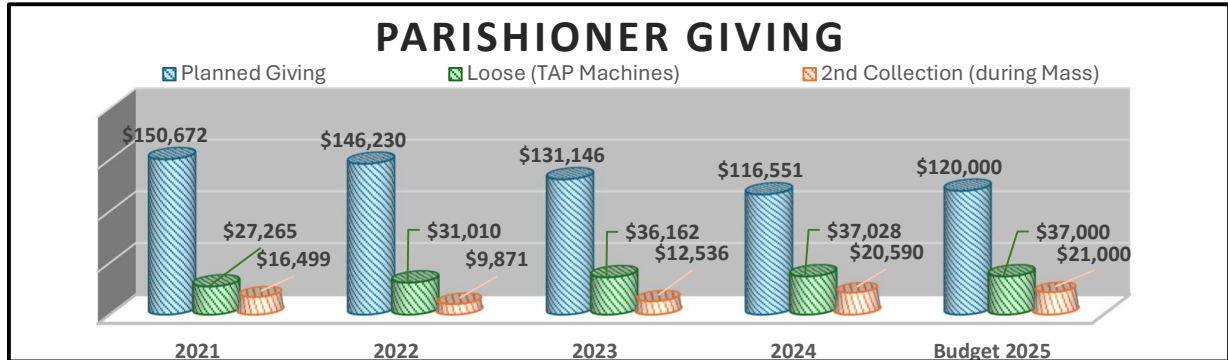


# PARISH FINANCE REPORT - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Parish Finance Council presents its report to the Parish for the year ending 31 December 2024.

## Parishioner Giving

Thank you for your continued financial support of the Parish. It is always greatly appreciated.



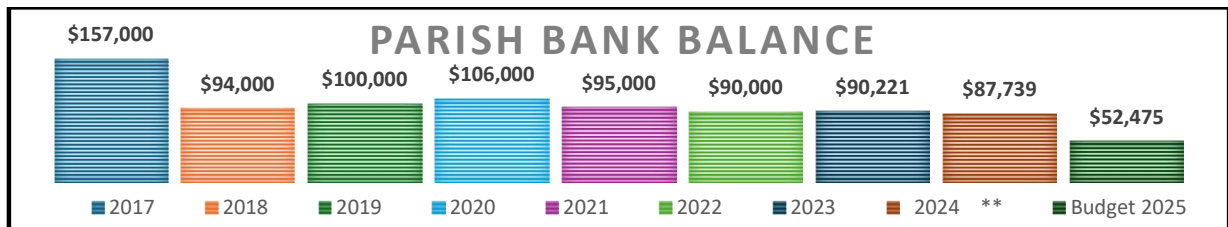
Parishioner giving, which is a primary source of income for the Parish, has decreased from \$194,436 in 2021 to \$174,169 in 2024, reflecting a decline of over \$20,000. This reduction is partially offset by income from other sources such as recoupment of education resources, interest, and hall rental. Nonetheless, the total Parish income has declined by \$13,000 compared to 2021.

Although contributions via TAP machines and the 2nd Mass collection have increased, Planned Giving (envelopes and monthly direct payments) has been declining in recent years. This decline is attributable to several factors: reduced Mass attendance since Covid, an ageing parish population, and the rising cost of living, which has made it more challenging for many parishioners to contribute.

## Can You Help?

- For those participating in planned giving – Thank you. Please consider whether your contributions are keeping up with inflation and the annual increase in the cost of living. If possible, consider increasing your contribution, even by a modest amount. Together, it creates a significant impact.
- For those not participating in planned giving, please consider setting up a regular contribution to the church. Forms to arrange this are available at the entrance to the church and on the website, or you can email ([WodenSouth@cg.org.au](mailto:WodenSouth@cg.org.au)) or call the Parish office on 02 62861908. If you cannot participate in Planned Giving please contribute what you can during Mass collections or through tap and go machines.

## Parish Bank Balance



\*\* 2024 includes \$23,848 donation specifically to be used for an Adoration Chapel. Parish funds are \$63,891

The Parish bank balance has been decreasing over time. Reasons include:

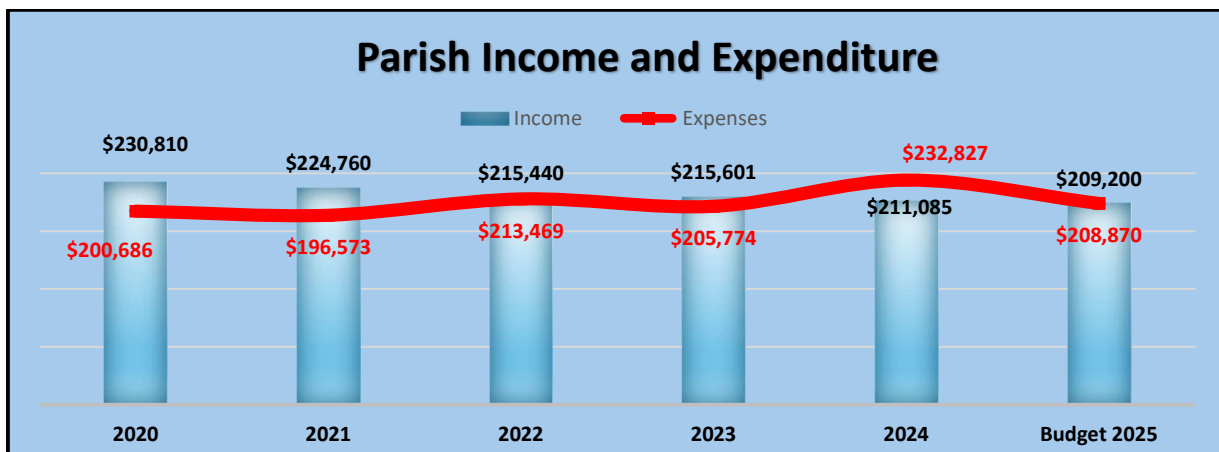
- Principal repayments on the Parish Loan
- The need for major capital improvements (e.g. Electronic sign, Church PA and screens) and major repairs (e.g. Church roof, presbytery windows, carpark potholes etc.) over the last four years.
- The deficit in 2024 is due to the reduced income and the increase in expenditure, especially capital items and repairs.

## Parish Loan

In 2018, the Parish secured a loan of \$350,000 from the Catholic Development Fund to construct the Parish Office, limited mobility parking area and improved parish hall. These facilities have been instrumental in the Parish. We pay monthly instalments of both principal and interest of \$2,305.

The outstanding loan amount is currently \$243,653. In 2024, principal repayments totalling \$11,053 were made from the Parish bank account (interest payments are included in the Parish expenses). The principal repayment in 2025 is estimated to be \$11,750.

## Parish Income and Expenditure



- The parish income has been trending downwards over the past five years due to a decline in Parishioner Giving as previously discussed.
- For the first time, in 2024, our expenses have exceeded our income creating a deficit.
- Parish expenditure is increasing - Reasons include:
  - Inflation and higher-than-inflation cost increases for rates, utilities, insurances, and overheads.
  - Ageing infrastructure (buildings and fittings) requiring more maintenance, repairs, servicing, or replacement, with major projects needed in the near future including painting the interior of the church, replacing the carpet, and renewing equipment.
  - Increased staff time and costs associated with compliance for insurance policies and health and safety measures for the protection of children, vulnerable individuals, staff, and parishioners.
- The forecast budget for 2025 indicates that the parish may break even but only if the forecast Parishioner Giving income increases by \$4,500 which is against the current trend.



## PARISH FINANCE REPORT - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### Detailed Income and Expenditure and 2025 Budget

The Parish income and expenditure statement for 2024 with 2023 comparative and the budget forecast for 2025 is below.

<b>Parish Income and Expenditure and 2025 Budget</b>		<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>Budget</b>
				<b>\$</b>
<b>Income</b>				
Planned Giving	Envelopes and regular contributions	\$131,146	\$116,551	\$120,000
2nd Collection	Collection bag during Mass	\$12,536	\$20,590	\$37,000
Other Giving	Tap machines at entrances and candles	\$36,162	\$37,028	\$21,000
<b>Total Parishioner Giving</b>		<b>\$179,844</b>	<b>\$174,169</b>	<b>\$178,000</b>
Donations/Bequests	e.g. donations for projects	\$18,063	\$15,061	\$12,300
Functions & Ceremonies	e.g. funerals, weddings etc.	\$6,899	\$7,966	\$6,800
Hire of Facilities	e.g. hire of hall	\$2,363	\$2,932	\$2,800
Education Recoupment	e.g. Sacrament program, resources	\$6,250	\$8,340	\$2,600
Other Income	e.g. bank interest	\$2,182	\$2,617	\$6,700
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$215,601</b>	<b>\$211,085</b>	<b>\$209,200</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Administration	e.g. bank fees, phone, computer, P & S, cleaning, office expenses etc.	\$20,509	\$23,189	\$23,430
Archdiocesan Levies and Donations	e.g. archdiocese payments, hospital chaplaincy	\$11,356	\$11,992	\$11,500
Church & Presbytery Overheads	e.g. rates & taxes, electricity, loan interest, gardening, minor repairs etc.	\$41,365	\$44,206	\$36,940
Church & Presbytery Capital Items	e.g. major repairs, improvements etc.	\$22,772	\$18,808	\$1,500
Education Resources	e.g. sacrament program, resources etc.	\$3,335	\$9,651	\$7,700
Insurances	e.g. public liability, property, volunteers, worker's compensation & brokerage	\$25,110	\$24,385	\$24,500
Motor Vehicle	Priest's vehicle expenses	\$5,633	\$9,641	\$9,700
Staff Wages & Oncosts	e.g. wages, superannuation annual leave, LSL, Parish support.	\$75,694	\$90,955	\$93,600
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$205,774</b>	<b>\$232,827</b>	<b>\$208,870</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		<b>\$9,827</b>	<b>\$(21,742)</b>	<b>\$330</b>