



LIMERICK CITY PARISH



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Charity Number: CHY 5785
Registered Charity Number: 20009212



The inauguration of the new Mayor of Limerick, Saint Mary's Cathedral, June 2024

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS
for year ended 31st December 2024

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Parishioners,

Another year, another report. Looking back at the previous year it always surprises me how many things happened within a short space of time. In 2024, we were delighted to host the inauguration of the newly elected Mayor of Limerick, the inauguration of the new Estonian counsel and the Governors of the Anglican Centre in Rome.

We are fortunate to have had two ordinands (Ms Siobhan Wheeler and Dr Jessica Brown) with us on placement and, as I write we are hopeful that a new curate-assistant will be joining us in early Summer 2025. It is good that Limerick City Parish can offer space for ministerial training and formation.

Building and maintenance work are never far away and a substantial element of Select Vestry business is taken up dealing with such matters. We are fortunate and thankful that our Select Vestry give generously of their wisdom and skill, and I pay tribute to them. The management of our finances is also a major item on every Vestry meeting. Overall, 2024 has been a good year, and this is thanks to careful budgeting and wise stewardship.

Messrs Frank Sheahan & Joe Lynam have in recent months given most generously of their time to the Cathedral accounts and for that we are extremely grateful. In addition, Messrs Dáire McNamara, Bertie Swanton, Mrs Felicity Roche together with our parish Finance Committee (under the Chairmanship of Mr Keith Morrow) efficiently and diligently ensure all aspects of parish finances are carefully controlled. To them and Mr Colin Marsden who has assisted in the preparing of the parochial accounts – thank you. This report is largely the fruit of their labours.

Charity is fundamental to our Christian witness and as you will see a considerable amount of money goes to mission and charity agencies locally, nationally and globally. I'm pleased that within our parish we distributed over €16,000 to those in financial need.

It is only through the generosity of parishioners that we are able to provide ministry in Limerick City and beyond.

So to all those who have given – **Thank you!**

With every blessing,



The Very Rev'd Niall J.W. Sloane
Dean & Rector

PARISH INFORMATION

Church Services

	Saint Michael's Church 10.00am	Saint Mary's Cathedral 11.15am	Ss John & Ailbe Church Abington 10.00am
Week 1	Morning Prayer	Choral Eucharist	No Service
Week 2	Holy Communion	Choral Matins	Morning Prayer
Week 3	Family Service	Choral Eucharist	Holy Communion (9.30am)
Week 4	Holy Communion	Choral Matins	Morning Prayer
Week 5		As announced	

Prayer for our Parish

Gracious and loving God, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon our parish to fill us with love. Make us instruments of your love to everyone that we encounter at home, at work, in our neighbourhoods, and in our parish community. Work through us so that we can bring your truth to those who are searching for you. Help us to grow in gratitude so that we can recognise and thank you for all the good things you have given us. Instil in us a deep sense of generosity so that we are willing to share our gifts, our talents, our time, and our treasures. Deepen our desire to follow your will and to do all things for your honour and glory. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Note on Limerick City Parish

The city of Limerick, on the banks of the Shannon, grew from a monastery founded by Saint Munchin in the sixth or seventh century. One of its great bishops, Gilbert, was Papal Legate at the Synod of Rathbrassil in 1111, which brought about the reform of the Irish Church. His involvement ensured the establishment of Limerick as an important see.

Saint Mary's Cathedral was gifted to the Church in 1168 by Donal Mhor O'Brien, the last King of Munster. Originally the site of a royal palace it has been a place of Christian worship for over 850 years.

Saint Michael's Church, Pery Square was constructed as a result of the growth in Georgian Limerick. The church was built in 1844. The apse was added in 1859.

Ss John & Ailbe Church, Abington is the last remaining church in the historic diocese of Emly. The present building was opened for worship in 1870.

Limerick City Parish includes a number of ancient parishes including Mungret, Saint Munchin, Saint Nicholas, Saint Laurence, Saint Patrick, Fedamore and Cahernarry.

Saint Michael's National School enrolled its first pupils in November 1882. The school was located on the present site at 11 Barrington Street and was extended in 1953, 1964 and 1968. The present classrooms were added in 1984, the numbers have risen steadily during the last decade, and there have been five mainstream class teachers since September 2008.

WHO'S WHO IN LIMERICK CITY PARISH - 2024

Ministry Team

Dean & Rector

The Very Rev'd Niall J.W. Sloane, The Deanery, 7 Kilbane, Castletroy

Telephone: 061 338697 Email: dean@limerick.anglican.org

Curate Assistant

The Rev'd Dr Leonard Madden, The Curatage, 50 Ballinvoher, Fr Russell Rd (resigned September 2024)

Telephone: 061 302038 Email: curate@limerick.anglican.org

Hon Assistant Clergy

The Very Rev'd J.M.G. Sirr

Lay Readers

David McBurnie (died March 2025) : Andrew Ellerker : Oliver Deegan

Parish Reader

Tony O'Connell

Limerick City Parish

Select Vestry

Rector; Curate, Churchwardens; Glebewardens; Lindsay Boyle, Margaret Brickenden, Richard Brickenden, Gillian Cheatley, Susi Eckhardt, Niamh Hourigan, Lucy Kavanagh, Trevor Lyttle, Daire MacNamara, Keith Morrow, Ian Mulvey, Meghan Mulvey.

Hon. Secretary

Meghan Mulvey

Hon. Treasurer

Vacant

Glebewardens

Rector's – Brian Shephard People's – Tracey Lyttle

Parochial Nominators

Frank Sheahan, Tracey Lyttle, Margaret Brickenden, Craig Copley Brown

Supplemental Parochial Nominators

Kieran Sparling, Bertie Swanton, Elizabeth Stanley, Lindsay Boyle

Diocesan Synodspersons

Adrienne Barron, Margaret Brickenden, Craig Copley Brown, Tracey Lyttle, Sheelagh Morrow, Keith Morrow, Catherine Smith, Bertie Swanton, Oliver Deegan, Kieran Sparling

Supplemental Diocesan Synodspersons

Daire McNamara, Cormac O'Connell, Trevor Lyttle, Elizabeth Stanley

Parish Panel

The Dean, The Curate, Kieran Sparling & Ros Stevenson

An Abhainn (Editor)

Jeanne Dippenaar

Newslink

Gillian Cheatley

Saint Mary's Cathedral

Churchwardens: Rector's - Frank Sheahan People's – Victor Brown

Dean's Verger: Kariba Braide

Caretaker: Noreen Ellerker

Organist: Peter Barley

Readers Guild: Alan Bunworth

Tower Captain: Adrienne Baron

Saint Michael's Church

Churchwardens: People's – Cormac O'Connell

Rector's – Tristan Kessler (to September 2024) / Barbara Clayton (from September 2024)

Caretaker: VACANT

Saint Michael's Hall Bookings: Oliver Deegan

Organist: Irina Dernova

Readers Guild: Margaret Schutz

Saints John & Ailbe Church, Abington

Churchwardens: Rector's – Elizabeth Stanley People's – Bertie Swanton

Organist: VACANT

Readers Guild: Churchwardens

Website: www.lcp.limerick.anglican.org

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

1st September (in Saint Mary's Cathedral) – Charles Thomas Peirce

20th October (in Saint Mary's Cathedral) – Eleanor Gidney

10th November (in Saint Mary's Cathedral) – Aiden Séan Jamieson

Confirmation

20th October (in Saint Mary's Cathedral) – 6 candidates

Funerals / Memorial Services / Burials

2nd April (in Saint Mary's Cathedral) – Norman Birdthistle

22nd April (in Saints John & Ailbe, Abington) – Frances Mary (Kokie) Moore

9th May (in Saint Mary's Cathedral) – George Hilary Redden

15th May (in Saint Mary's Cathedral) – June Maguire

23rd December (in Saint Michael's Church) – Christopher Stanley Blennerhassett

PAROCHIAL STATISTICS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Limerick City Parish Population

Number of Households	210
Number of Registered Vestry members	156
Number of Sunday School Roll/Godly Play (Attending)	11

Church Attendance

Total for all Services.....	10,386
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Saint John's & Saint Ailbe's Church

Sunday (40)	425	average	11
Weekdays (3)	218	average	73

Saint Michael's Church

Sunday (63)	1,991	average	40
Weekdays(8)	695	average	87

Saint Mary's Cathedral

Sunday (63)	4,356	average	70
Weekdays(327)	2,701	average	8

Communicants

Total number of Communicants.....	4,372 (133 Celebrations)
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Occasional Services

Baptisms	3
Confirmations	6
Marriages	0
Funerals	5
Ordinations	0

Visitors to Saint Mary's Cathedral: 36,603

Church Services TV views
Summary for period 01/01/2024- 31/12/2024

Current Year Totals

Number of Viewers	Number of Unique Viewers	Total Time Viewed (hrs)	1 Min or Less	1 Min to 5 Mins	5 Mins to 1 Hour	1 Hour or More
20,765	17,126	10,626	8,142	5,213	5,172	2,238

Viewers by country (81)

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Albania: 2 | • France: 42 | • Philippines: 5 |
| • Algeria: 1 | • Germany: 209 | • Poland: 16 |
| • Andorra: 1 | • Greece: 3 | • Portugal: 22 |
| • Antigua and Barbuda: 3 | • Guatemala: 4 | • Puerto Rico: 2 |
| • Argentina: 3 | • Guernsey: 2 | • Qatar: 1 |
| • Australia: 67 | • Hong Kong: 1 | • Romania: 10 |
| • Austria: 14 | • Hungary: 3 | • Russia: 5 |
| • Belarus: 1 | • India: 17 | • Saudi Arabia: 3 |
| • Belgium: 16 | • Ireland: 11029 | • Sierra Leone: 1 |
| • Brazil: 37 | • Isle of man: 6 | • Singapore: 20 |
| • British Virgin Islands: 1 | • Israel: 2 | • Slovakia: 54 |
| • Bulgaria: 1 | • Italy: 49 | • Slovenia: 1 |
| • Cambodia: 1 | • Japan: 3 | • South Africa: 4 |
| • Canada: 150 | • Jersey: 2 | • South Korea: 3 |
| • Chile: 1 | • Kenya: 2 | • Spain: 133 |
| • China: 3 | • Luxembourg: 2 | • Sweden: 135 |
| • Colombia: 1 | • Madagascar: 1 | • Switzerland: 19 |
| • Costa Rica: 2 | • Malaysia: 3 | • Thailand: 2 |
| • Croatia: 1 | • Mauritius: 1 | • Trinidad and Tobago: 1 |
| • Cyprus: 1 | • Mexico: 8 | • Turkey: 6 |
| • Czech Rep.: 4 | • Moldova: 1 | • Turks and Caicos islands: 1 |
| • Denmark: 2 | • Morocco: 1 | • Uganda: 2 |
| • Dominican Republic: 2 | • Namibia: 2 | • Ukraine: 1 |
| • El Salvador: 1 | • Netherlands: 28 | • U.A.E.: 4 |
| • Fiji: 1 | • New Zealand: 4 | • U.K.: 2744 |
| • Finland: 4 | • Nigeria: 4 | • U.S.A.: 2168 |
| | • Norway: 9 | |
| | • Pakistan: 1 | |
| | • Paraguay: 3 | |

PARISH CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Saint Mary's Cathedral Bellringers

- At our Annual General Meeting – the first for some years – in early 2024, Adrienne Baron was elected Tower Captain. Alan Hegarty was elected as the Tower Vice-Captain. Kieron Brislane was re-elected as Tower Secretary and Treasurer.
- Also, Kieron Brislane was elected an Honorary Life Member of St. Mary's Cathedral Society of Bell Ringers for over 50 years of dedicated service to the tower.
- During 2024, we rang on 49 of the 52 Sundays and 8 other occasions. All 8 bells were rung on 19 of those occasions. Next goal is to get that number back over 40 times.
- Recipient of the best Service Attendance Shield for 2024 was shared by Adrienne Baron and Christy Pratt with 50 out of 58.
- We enjoyed our annual New Year Sunday lunch in January in the George Hotel.
- At this lunch, Long Service Certificates were presented to Adrienne Baron, Alan Hegarty, Christy Pratt, Clodagh Lynch, Gerry O'Shea, Pat Mulcahy and Daniel Mulcahy.
- In the final weeks of the year, Brendan Dunne, Justin O'Connor and Audrey Keane graduated to ringing with the team on Sundays.
- The outstanding work to the bells and clappers was completed in September. The bells are now in very good working condition.
- There is some concern about the frame and the girders holding them in place. Further inspections are needed.
- A work-party did a stellar job in cleaning the belfry and bell pit.
- The ringing chamber received a long-overdue coat of paint. A fantastic job was done and a big Thank You to Dean Sloane and the Cathedral Vestry for organising.
- Because of the paint project, all our old photographs had to be removed from the walls – they are now being digitally copied before they are returned to the walls.
- Again, we hosted a small New Year's Eve party for ringers, family members and friends prior to ringing-in 2025.
- At the Southern District AGM in March, Kieron Brislane was re-elected as the district secretary.
- Unfortunately, we were unable to participate in the RR Cherry Cup, which was hosted by the ringers in Skibbereen. As holders, this was disappointing.
- We did participate in the Fred Bogan trophy, held on the new bells in Doneraile tower. We won that one.
- Away from the tower, in April some of our ringers went to Mike Pomeroy's home village of Kilmersdon in Somerset for a weekend of ringing with many of his English and Irish friends – a wonderful weekend was enjoyed by all.
- In July we travelled, with our families, to Killarney for a day trip – this included a visit to Crag Cave and a boat trip on Lough Leane.
- In September, using our Free Travel Passes, we travelled to Dublin and enjoyed a tour of the Custom House, and a quick visit to Collin's Barracks.
- In October St Mary's Cathedral and Mt St. Alphonsus jointly hosted the IACR Annual Autumn Ringing Festival. Ringers from all over Ireland and a few from England, attended. The occasion concluded with dinner and a table quiz in the Locke Bar.

- The ringers were interviewed and photographed for an article on bell ringing that subsequently appeared in an early-December edition of the Irish Farmer's Journal.

Kieron Brislane

Whist

St Michael's Whist Drives ran from October to March of this year. - a total of six drives. We had some new faces during the year which was good to see. Our old regulars were back too. Special thanks to all who contribute to make these such a success whether you bake or donate. We were sorry to say farewell to our stalworth, Avril Condell who has relocated to County Limerick and we wish her well in her new surroundings. Look forward to seeing everyone back in October of this year.

Tracey Lyttle, Co-Ordinator

Mothers' Union

We started January 2024 with a service of Holy Communion followed by lunch in The Locke Bar.

The February meeting was afternoon tea and a quiz, and we were joined by members from Adare.

In March, we attended the World Day of Prayer service. Our Lady Day Service was hosted by Adare and led by the Reverend Keith Barry.

In April, we spoke about Home and Personal Security and handed out information from An Garda Siochana.

In April, we also attended our Diocesan Get Together in Ballinasloe to meet with our new Tuam members. It was a wonderful day of fellowship.

In May, we had a talk given by Adapt House Women's Refuge on their new apartment development.

In August, we celebrated Mary Sumner Day with a visit to Busy Bee Garden Centre and were joined by Adare.

In September, the Reverend Leonard Madden led our Opening Service and were joined by Adare.

In October, Adare hosted our Harvest Supper, our main Annual Fundraiser for MU projects.

In November, we held our Remembrance Tea Party. MU Cards, diaries calendars were on sale.

In December, we held our AGM and planning for 2024. Through the generosity of members and LCP we gave hampers of food, gifts and clothes to Thomond House & Adapt House Women's Refuges and Brother Russell Men's Refuge.

Lucy Kavanagh, Branch Leader

Saint Michael's Sunday Club

Unfortunately, Sunday School did not take place in St Michaels for 2024 as despite our best efforts, we were unable to get children involved.

Noreen Johnston, Sunday School Coordinator

Saint Mary's Cathedral Sunday Club

The Sunday Club had a lively year in 2024

It met regularly on the first and third Sundays of the month, in line with school terms.

It is open to those of Primary School; going age. Younger participants are very welcome when accompanied by a carer

The first Sunday normally takes the form of Godly Play

During the Epiphany season 2024 the children made Christingles for the Christingle service

During the year coins are brought in by the children. The collection tin contents amounted to 64.47 Euro which was sent to the children's chosen charity for the year St Vincent de Paul

The Sunday Club children from time to time take part in the liturgy, reading, collecting and Advent Candle lighting

Some of their art work is displayed on a noticeboard in St Mark's Chapel

A true highlight of the calendar year comes towards the end with the Cinema Trip very kindly funded by the parish. This year it was Paddington in Peru. We are already looking forward to and wondering what it will be in December 2025!

Regular contributors to the running of the Sunday Club during 2024 were Karen Wilson, Jennifer O'Leary, Oliver Deegan, Pippa Little and Claire Jackson

Claire Jackson, Sunday School Coordinator

Saint Mary's Cathedral Choir

The calendar year began in customary fashion with the Epiphany Carol service in mid-January. Preparations then began in earnest in advance of the opening concert of the 2024 Limerick Early Music Festival in mid-March. We were pleased once again to collaborate with Ancor in presenting this concert. We also combined with two other choirs for this concert, the Limerick School of Music Senior Choir and *Sagittarius Hiberniensis*, both of which have some shared membership with the cathedral choir, together with a professional orchestra and soloists.

Earlier in March it was a privilege to sing in a special evensong with the installation of a new Canon (the Prebendary of Athnett). Similarly, later in the year it was very good to be able to join with the choir of St Nicholas' Collegiate Church, Galway and their director of music Mark Duley for a joint service of choral evensong for the installation of four canons (including our own Dean) in mid June in St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam. This was a historic occasion and further symbolises the unifying of our new United Dioceses.

The Royal School of Church Music designates one Sunday a year as Music Sunday, usually in June, and it's an opportunity to give thanks for the enrichment that music brings to worship in churches and cathedrals throughout the world. In St Mary's this presented a good opportunity for the junior choir to perform. The choir first came together in September 2022 and has made good progress over the past two years. With a view to supporting the development of this new choir the Organist paid a visit to the weekly assembly of St Michael's National School in early October to talk about the opportunities for choir singing in St Mary's Cathedral.

It has been a joy to have Dr Warren Symes playing for us on several occasions in 2024 during his sabbatical. In particular he kindly accompanied the cathedral choir on our visit to

St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe, which also took place as part of RSCM Music Sunday on 23rd June.

With an ever present need to keep an eye to recruitment, we were delighted to feature in an article in the Limerick Post - a nice way to finish the choir year. Numbers of new singers joining the choir are holding steady, although it is always important to keep encouraging both teenagers and adults to consider joining the choir.

The autumn term began with the usual busy and short lead in time to the Patronal Festival, and then the choir began preparing for the annual presentation and concert for Leaving Certificate students of the Bach Cantata set work in mid-October. The choir was also pleased to take part once again in the annual concert for Mental Health Week at around the same time. It was good also to have the opportunity in mid-September to commemorate the centenary of the death of C.V. Stanford by presenting a special Choral Matins of his music. 2024 was also Gabriel Faure's 100th anniversary, so we featured two movements from his celebrated Requiem during the Parade and Remembrance Sunday services. Plans are in hand for a 'Come and Sing' performance of the whole work (in November 2025). The feast days of Saint Michael and all Angels and of St Columba both fell on Sundays this year, and so it was possible to mark these. In the case of St Columba, the choir sang a special anthem by Benjamin Britten, the Hymn of St Columba.

The lunchtime concerts remain very popular, and having run 23 concerts in 2022 and 20 in 2023, this year was a particularly busy year. We ran 28 concerts, with an average attendance of 57 people.

The second half of the Christmas term naturally focuses on rehearsals for the upcoming Parade and Remembrance Services and then the Advent and Christmas services. In addition to this we were delighted to welcome the choir of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork to Limerick in mid-November, to join us for both the morning Eucharist and evensong. The Dean kindly hosted a lunch in the cathedral for both choirs, with the gracious assistance of some of the cathedral volunteer team. We look forward to the return visit in early May 2025, when we will be singing in two services as part of the annual Cork Choral Festival.

Peter Barley, Organist & Director of Music

Craft Hub

No activity since March 2020.

Karen Wilson, Convenor

Parish Prayer Group

This past year saw the beginning of a new parish Prayer Group, which meets in the Cathedral.

We have not yet set a regular meeting time, but notice of meetings will be advised in the Newsletter, and all are welcome.

In prayer we can be totally open with God. We can't hide anything from God, so we come as we are. We confess our needs and failings, make requests for ourselves and others, give thanks for our joys, and talk with God both as our Creator and as our friend.

Just as friends don't need to talk with each other all the time, but can enjoy silent companionship, so we can sometimes rest in God's presence without saying anything.

We may pray either in the words of set prayers, especially the Lord's Prayer, or by simply talking to God of our concerns.

We invite God to enter more deeply both into our lives. But prayer is more than asking God for favours.

By offering our prayers through Jesus Christ, we are allowing him the last word.

And that changes everything.

Oliver Deegan, Convenor

Park & Play

Park and Play group had a great 2023, our numbers have started to return to the level we had pre-pandemic. We were able to incorporate a few community organisations and events that brought everyone together in a healthy manner. Including our ever-popular Easter Egg Hunt in People's Park and our Halloween Party. We struggled with getting parents involved however, towards the end of 2023 we were able to reestablish our full committee. ABC startright facilitated a few story times and rhyme times to assist the baby and toddlers in our group. We had a wonderful group outing to Bunratty park in May with a great turn out which kicked off our summer outdoor programming. Although the summer weather was fairly wet and a few indoor days- the babies and toddlers had a great summer. The adults were able to establish new friendships and support networks through our group. We finished off the year with a special visit from Santa and well wishes and blessings into the new year of 2024.

Carrie Jamieson

Pier Bowling Club

No activity since March 2020.

Lindsay Boyle

The Evergreens

The Evergreens met on eight occasions during 2024. Thank you to Noreen Allen for her work co-ordinating the meetings and to Tony O'Connell for organising the speakers.

Among the activities and topics discussed were:

Making St. Bridget's Crosses; help with smart phones; Mayors of Limerick; the history of Limerick through postcards; the history of Richmond Terrace; bees and all things apicultural; the work of the Samaritans; Are ye goin' up town? - MIC Oral History Department.

The year concluded with a very enjoyable lunch in Aubergine Restaurant, Croom.

We welcomed a new member to the committee – Helena Burrowes.

Thank you to the other committee members for their support throughout the year.

Noreen Allen & Ros Stevenson

Saint Michael's Church Choir

As the choir mistress I would like to say heartfelt words of gratitude to all of St Michael's Choir singers on a great year of singing and learning new anthems and hymns, a few of them by J.S. Bach, whose 340th Birthday will be celebrated throughout the world in 2025! Every Sunday the Choir leads singing of congregational hymns, Psalms and Canticles with Anglican traditional chant, Liturgical music and anthems for many occasions of the Church Year.

Celebrations of the 180th Anniversary of St Michael's Church were led by the choir at this year's Michaelmas, and that was not the only contribution made by the choir! The most delicious 180th Birthday cake, baked by Susi Eckhardt, our member, was the next part of the celebrations! The celebratory cake was given the privilege to be cut by the hand of Patsy Pomeroy, our most honourable choir member!

We had a very busy time then preparing for Advent and Christmas, and all three services, Advent, Christmas Carols and Christmas Day were filled with music of all different times, from Baroque to contemporary. We also were delighted and thankful that Sheila Hickey-Allen joined us playing her clarinet so beautifully.

In the coming months of 2025, St Michael's choir will continue to meet for practice on Monday nights, learning new music and revising well-known hymns as well as having a good time singing together.

Irina Dernova, Organist and Choir Mistress

Friends of Abington Church

We are an interdenominational community group set up 20 years ago. Our reverend patrons are the rector of Limerick City Parish, the Parish Priest of Murroe/Boher Parish and the Abbot of Glenstal Abbey.

We are grateful to everybody who has supported and encouraged us during the past 20 years.

Friends of Saint Mary's Cathedral

The Friend's AGM was held in the Cathedral in September. The minutes of the 2024 AGM were noted, Financial Accounts approved, the Committee was re-elected. The AGM was followed by a well-attended luncheon, hosted by the Friends.

A successful (and now annual) coffee morning was held in the Cathedral on in the early part of the year, this was open to all.

Please remember the gift of membership of the Friends is a delightful idea or becoming a Friend is a rewarding experience.

Membership Rates:

Silver €15 per annum (under 18 years)

Gold €25 per annum

Diamond €250 for life

Platinum €850 for 10 years

Mary Graydon, Hon. Secretary



THE PARISH SCHOOL SAINT MICHAEL'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

As we conclude 2024 and transition into 2025, Saint Michael's National School reflects on a vibrant year of growth, learning, and a strong sense of community. Our pupils participated in a variety of enriching events that supported both their academic and personal development.

Peace Proms provided our senior pupils (4th - 6th Class) with the opportunity to perform alongside a chamber orchestra at the University of Limerick. Meanwhile, Dance It Out Ireland and Yoga lessons encouraged both movement and mindfulness. Regular library visits, workshops, and our exciting World Book Day celebrations fostered a love of reading among our students. Sports were a major focus in 2024, with the continuation of swimming lessons at Swim Max, coaching sessions, rugby blitzes, and events like UL Athletics and Villiers Sports Days promoting teamwork and resilience.

Key highlights of the year included our whole-school performance of Jack and the Beanstalk, the Seachtain na Gaeilge céilí agus ceolchoirm at LPYMA, our fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt, and Neurodiversity Week. During Neurodiversity Week, workshops led by Dr. Jennifer McMahon from Mary Immaculate College, along with an inspiring presentation from a 4th Class pupil, provided valuable learning experiences for all. During Engineering Week, parent Francesca Zanella introduced our older pupils to medical devices, broadening their understanding of engineering and innovation.

We were so proud to receive our Green Schools Flag for our efforts in reducing school litter and waste and acknowledge how diligently our Green Schools Committee worked in reaching this momentous achievement. Additionally, the installation of solar panels and sustainability workshops for 5th and 6th Class deepened our environmental commitment this year.

The PTA and staff united to host wonderful events, with the highlight being our annual Family Fun Evening in May, which brought our school community closer together.

We look forward to another exciting year ahead!

Kate Gleeson, Principal

LIMERICK CITY PARISH ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**for the year ended
31 December 2024**

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SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL

PAROCHIAL BANK ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The following bank accounts, held under the name of St Mary's Cathedral, are included in the these financial statements:

Allied Irish Banks plc, Raheen, Limerick

Parochial Account - account number 24762652

Parochial Account - account number 45430081 (opened on 14/08/2023)

Fabric and Repairs Fund - account number 24762223

Restoration Fund - account number 24762579

Allied Irish Banks plc, 106/108 O'Connell Street, Limerick

Graveyard Fund - account number 39354099

Bank accounts relating to the following funds are not reflected in these financial statements:

The Friends of St Mary's Cathedral

St. Mary's Cathedral Dean's Contingency Fund

St. Mary's Cathedral Bellringing Fund

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

To the members of the Select Vestry of Limerick City Parish (St Mary's Cathedral).

We have prepared and reviewed the financial statements of Limerick City Parish (St Mary's Cathedral) for the year ended 31 December 2024, set out on pages 4 to 10. Our review consisted primarily of enquiry, comparison and discussion of these statements and of the information and explanations supplied. In accordance with the terms of our engagement we have not performed an audit on these statements.

The statements are in agreement with the accounting records and are consistent with the information and explanations supplied to us.

We have also prepared separate financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 for the following Cathedral Funds:

Cathedral Graveyard Fund (see page 11)

Cathedral Fabric and Repairs Fund (formerly Repairs Reserve Fund) (see page 12)

Cathedral Restoration Fund (see page 12)

In accordance with the terms of our engagement we have not performed an audit on the financial statements



MARSDEN & CO

Chartered Accountants

59 Clare Street

Limerick

Date: 28th FEBRUARY 2025

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL**PAROCHIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT**

Year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
		€	€
<u>Income</u>			
Church offertory	1	62,886	53,514
Investment income	2	28,173	23,164
Special contributions received	3	3,537	7,049
Rentals	4	111,471	40,174
Parking		7,446	8,632
Choral income	5	5,821	15,766
Concerts and events income		15,861	13,605
Cathedral shop	6	13,932	10,039
Other income	7	34,324	14,930
Tourism receipts		99,655	91,771
Diocesan grants		7,000	10,000
Other grants	8	67,181	22,250
		<hr/> 457,287	<hr/> 310,894
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Church services		7,799	7,300
Diocesan assessment		44,561	38,539
Repairs and maintenance	9	71,917	46,494
Cathedral administration	10	133,818	115,854
Church music		17,800	15,524
Concerts/events expenses		6,417	6,381
Allocations (appendix A)		11,245	15,090
Payroll costs		64,229	43,299
Depreciation of tangible assets		3,730	1,914
		<hr/> 361,516	<hr/> 290,395
Surplus for year transferred to general reserve		<hr/> 95,771	<hr/> 20,499
		=====	=====

Signed on behalf of the Select Vestry:
The Very Reverend Niall J Sloane (Chairman)



Meghan Mulvey (Hon. Secretary)



Date: 27/02/25

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL**PAROCHIAL BALANCE SHEET**

at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
<u>Fixed Assets</u>			
Tangible assets	11	9,324	3,353
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Cathedral shop stocks		11,031	5,399
Debtors	12	47,967	17,151
Investment in RCB General Unit Trust		100,000	100,000
AIB Bank No. 1 current account		75,870	81,396
AIB Bank fixed term deposit account		101,504	100,000
Cash on hand		1,851	48
		338,223	303,994
<u>Current Liabilities</u>			
Creditors and accruals, and deferred income	13	85,773	59,257
Graveyard Fund		-	450
Representative Church Body - Interest-free loan		10,000	5,000
		95,773	64,707
Net Current Assets		242,450	239,287
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		251,774	242,640
<u>Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year</u>			
Representative Church Body - Interest-free loan		(80,000)	(95,000)
		171,774	147,640
		=====	=====
Represented by:			
General Reserve:			
Balance at beginning of year		147,640	158,568
Surplus from Parochial Revenue Account		95,771	20,499
Transfer to Fabric and Repairs Fund		(71,637)	(31,427)
Balance at end of year		171,774	147,640
		=====	=====

Signed on behalf of the Select Vestry:

The Very Reverend Niall J Sloane (Chairman)



Meghan Mulvey (Hon. Secretary)



Date: 27/02/25

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Church offertory	2024	2023
	€	€
Christian stewardship	26,273	22,346
Plate collection	16,598	18,954
Sustentation	5,776	11,870
Income tax refunds	14,239	344
	<u>62,886</u>	<u>53,514</u>
	=====	=====
2. Investment income	2024	2023
	€	€
Endowments	13,401	13,203
Trinity Church trust fund	9,477	9,911
Bank deposit interest	1,504	-
Investment income	3,791	-
Income from Prize Bonds	-	50
	<u>28,173</u>	<u>23,164</u>
	=====	=====
3. Special contributions received	2024	2023
	€	€
Bishop's Appeal projects	665	4,217
Mission Sunday	430	80
Priorities Fund	257	130
Villiers Homes - School Carol Service plate collection	1,075	1,633
Bishops Ordinands and in-training Fund (ConfirmationService)	477	-
Diocesan Board of Education (Schools' Service)	380	-
Poppy Fund Appeal	253	205
World Day of Prayer	-	183
Milford Hospice	-	145
ISPCC	-	456
	<u>3,537</u>	<u>7,049</u>
	=====	=====
4. Rentals	2024	2023
	€	€
Cathedral rentals	90,775	19,958
Vodafone: deflector rental income	12,000	12,000
Vodafone: contribution to electricity	8,596	7,196
Kilmurry Church rent	100	100
Visiting choirs, concerts etc	-	920
	<u>111,471</u>	<u>40,174</u>
	=====	=====

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

continued

5 Choral income	2024	2023
	€	€
Choir donations	5,821	15,766
	=====	=====
6 Cathedral shop	2024	2023
	€	€
Sales	30,865	20,094
Cost of sales	(16,933)	(10,055)
	=====	=====
Gross profit	13,932	10,039
	=====	=====
7 Other income	2024	2023
	€	€
Bequest received	20,000	-
Contributions received - Donation boxes and online	2,213	2,415
Miscellaneous donations	1,663	2,910
Occasional services	3,780	3,615
Sundry income	1,065	1,564
Receipts from after-service refreshments	-	63
Votive candles	2,495	2,265
VAT refund	3,108	1,362
Insurance claim	-	736
	=====	=====
	34,324	14,930
	=====	=====

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

continued

8 Other grants	2024	2023
	€	€
Representative Church Body	30,000	5,750
Buckley Foundation	25,000	-
Limerick City & County Council	11,681	16,500
Diocesan Board of Education (Children's Choir)	500	-
	<u>67,181</u>	<u>22,250</u>
	=====	=====
9 Repairs and maintenance	2024	2023
	€	€
General repairs and maintenance	<u>16,233</u>	<u>16,194</u>
Significant repair items		
Cathedral parking - access control system	23,383	-
Graveyard retaining wall (including Architect's fee)	23,363	25,629
Belfry repairs	5,194	7,656
Shed roof and floor repairs	3,744	-
Contribution from Graveyard Fund to wall repairs	-	(6,500)
Blue Room toilet	-	3,515
	<u>55,684</u>	<u>30,300</u>
	=====	=====
Total cost of repairs and maintenance	71,917	46,494
	=====	=====

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

continued

10 Cathedral administration	2024	2023
	€	€
Electricity	30,847	25,515
Gas	23,670	26,382
Insurance	20,751	20,524
Contribution to insurance cost from Graveyard Fund	(2,000)	(2,000)
Tourism expenses	5,838	87
Postage and telephone	1,324	1,447
Printing, stationery and literature	10,510	12,854
Bank charges	811	562
Credit card charges	2,405	1,536
Sundry expenses	3,593	8,855
Clergy expenses	2,565	1,911
Subscriptions and presentations	2,700	1,525
Refuse charges	880	791
Magazines	-	461
Audit fees	2,790	3,007
Accountancy and payroll services	7,283	2,621
Water charges	500	2,400
Local property tax and ground rent	103	103
Catering and canteen	8,707	-
Cleaning and consumables	3,095	3,485
Votive candle expenses	1,167	1,050
Computer and IT expenses	1,025	689
Chapter expenses	1,660	-
Security and monitoring costs	3,594	1,538
Bell ringers' expenses	-	511
	<u>133,818</u>	<u>115,854</u>
	=====	=====
11 Tangible assets	2024	2023
	€	€
Furniture, office and IT equipment		
At cost	34,027	24,326
Less: accumulated depreciation	(24,703)	(20,973)
	<u>9,324</u>	<u>3,353</u>
	=====	=====

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

continued

12 Debtors

	2024	2023
	€	€
St Michael's Church - recharges	8,812	4,500
Ss. John's & Ailbe's Church, Abington - recharges	1,424	992
Ss. John's & Ailbe's Church, Abington - loan advance	3,400	5,000
Glebes account - recharges	200	39
Friends of St. Mary's Cathedral - recharges	680	-
Other debtors and prepayments	33,451	6,620
	<u>47,967</u>	<u>17,151</u>
	=====	=====

13 Creditors and accruals

	2024	2023
	€	€
Creditors and expense accruals	39,320	30,046
Payroll taxes	922	2,248
Credit card facility	2,028	1,712
Charitable allocations	7,635	5,073
St Michael's Church	3,201	4,467
Ss. John's & Ailbe's Church, Abington	14,327	1,341
Friends of St. Mary's Cathedral	336	-
Deferred income	18,004	14,370
	<u>85,773</u>	<u>59,257</u>
	=====	=====

14 History of recent bequests

<u>The following bequests have been received in recent years:</u>	€
Peter Lowe, deceased (2011 - for liturgical purposes)	25,000
Canon EH Despard, deceased (2012 and 2015 - for Cathedral purposes)	78,523
Geraldine Hely-Hutchinson, deceased (2015)	25,000
Veich H Maiden, deceased (2015)	5,000
Sean O'hAllmhurain, deceased (2016)	420
Mildred Mary Sinclair (2018)	20,341
Hunt Sisters (2019 - credited to Restoration Project)	25,000
Kenneth G. Brislane (2022 - credited to Restoration Fund)	1,000
Beatrice (Baz) Millar (2024)	20,000
	=====

15 Approval of financial statements

These financial statements were approved by the members of the Select Vestry on27/02/25

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL

OTHER FUNDS

<u>Graveyard Fund</u>	2024	2023
	€	€
Opening balance	21,987	29,402
Subscriptions	2,475	395
New graves and registration fees	2,290	1,790
Grants from Limerick City & County Council	450	450
Bank charges	(36)	(28)
Repairs and maintenance	(2,706)	(8,022)
Insurance	(2,000)	(2,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Closing balance - 31 December	22,460	21,987
	=====	=====

Represented by:	2024	2023
	€	€
Allied Irish Bank current account no. 39354099	22,460	21,537
Add: Amount due to Parochial Revenue Account	-	450
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	22,460	21,987
	=====	=====

Signed on behalf of the Select Vestry:

The Very Reverend Niall J Sloane (Chairman)



Meghan Mulvey (Hon. Secretary) 

Date: 27/02/25

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL

OTHER FUNDS

<u>Restoration Fund</u>	2024	2023
	€	€
Opening balance - 1 January	85,061	74,140
Deposit interest	214	47
Grant received - Benefact Trust	38,202	10,874
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Closing balance - 31 December	123,477	85,061
	=====	=====

<u>Represented by:</u>	2024	2023
	€	€
Allied Irish Banks plc account no. 24762579	123,477	85,061
	=====	=====

<u>Fabric and Repairs Fund</u>	2024	2023
	€	€
Opening balance - 1 January	200,000	168,465
Deposit interest	603	108
Transfer from Parochial Revenue Account	71,637	31,427
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Closing balance - 31 December	272,240	200,000
	=====	=====

<u>Represented by:</u>	2024	2023
	€	€
AIB Bank deposit account no. 24762223	272,240	200,000
	=====	=====

Signed on behalf of the Select Vestry:

The Very Reverend Niall J Sloane (Chairman)



Meghan Mulvey (Hon. Secretary)



Date: 27/02/25

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL

APPENDIX A - ALLOCATIONS

Allocations	2024	2023
	€	€
Ana Liffey Drug Project	1,761	2,160
CARI Foundation	1,761	2,160
Bishops' Appeal Projects	1,265	4,577
Villiers Homes (Carol Service collection)	1,075	1,633
Diocesan Board of Education	680	100
Priorities Fund	633	561
Island Community Partnership (Meals on Wheels)	600	700
Jigsaw	600	700
Bishops' Ordinands and in-training Fund	500	569
Mission Sunday	430	-
Poppy Fund	320	205
Royal School of Church Music	320	135
Church's Ministry of Healing	300	200
Church of Ireland Theological Institute	300	300
Community Mental Health Initiative	300	-
RCB Library Conservation Fund	300	300
UDYC	100	-
ISPC	-	456
World Day of Prayer	-	184
Milford Care Centre	-	150
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11,245	15,090
	=====	=====


**ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL, LIMERICK (LIMERICK CITY PARISH)
BELLRINGING FUND**

Income & Expenditure Account

Year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	€	€
<u>Income</u>		
Membership subscriptions	340	300
Donations	417	245
	<u>757</u>	<u>545</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Membership fees	125	125
Administration costs	82	100
Repairs and maintenance	645	270
Educational books	50	-
Donation to RNLI (in memory of Dr. Mike Pomeroy)	-	100
	<u>902</u>	<u>595</u>
Deficit for the year	(145)	(50)
Opening balance at 1 January	<u>3,384</u>	<u>3,434</u>
Closing balance at 31 December	<u>3,239</u>	<u>3,384</u>
Represented by:		
Bank and cash balances	<u>3,239</u>	<u>3,384</u>

Approved by:


Kieron Brislane
Treasurer

Date: 27 Feb. 2025.



Dean Niall J. Sloane
President

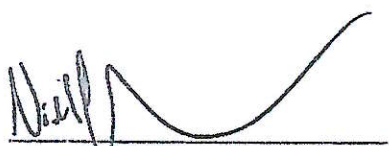
ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL, LIMERICK (LIMERICK CITY PARISH)
DEAN'S CONTINGENCY FUND

Income & Expenditure Account

Year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 €	2023 €
<u>Income</u>		
Private donations	800	1,150
Endowment income (via LCP Churches)	900	865
	<u>1,700</u>	<u>2,015</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Charitable assistance	898	2,135
Bank charges	62	28
	<u>960</u>	<u>2,163</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for year	740	(148)
Opening balance at 1 January	<u>876</u>	<u>1,024</u>
Closing balance at 31 December	<u><u>1,616</u></u>	<u><u>876</u></u>
Represented by:		
Debtors	549	537
Bank balance	<u>1,067</u>	<u>339</u>
	<u><u>1,616</u></u>	<u><u>876</u></u>

Signed:


The Very Reverend Niall J. Sloane

Date:

19th FEBRUARY 2025

THE FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL, LIMERICK (LIMERICK CITY PARISH)

<u>INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</u>	<u>YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
		€	€
<u>Income</u>			
Membership subscriptions and donations		2,305	2,315
Special collection		291	-
		<u>2,596</u>	<u>2,315</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>			
New flagpoles for Cathedral		646	-
Patronal lunch and expenses		109	132
Bank fees		2	23
		<u>757</u>	<u>155</u>
Surplus of Income over Expenditure		1,839	2,160
Balance at 1 January		<u>18,971</u>	<u>16,811</u>
Balance at 31 December		<u>20,810</u>	<u>18,971</u>
Represented by:			
Bank balance - Permanent TSB - current account		21,154	18,971
Debtor - amount due from St. Mary's Cathedral		336	-
Creditor - amount due to St. Mary's Cathedral		(680)	-
		<u>20,810</u>	<u>18,971</u>

Signed:



The Very Reverend Niall J. Sloane (Chairman)



Noreen Ellerker (Treasurer)

Date:

27.2.2024

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**for the year ended
31 December 2024**

CONTENTS

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

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ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

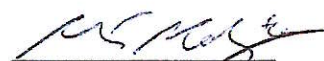
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024

To the members of the Select Vestry - Limerick City Parish

We have prepared and reviewed the financial statements of St. Michael's Church, Limerick, for the year ended 31 December 2024, set out on pages 3 to 8. Our review consisted primarily of enquiry and discussion of these financial statements and the information and explanations supplied to us by the Hon. Treasurer of St. Michael's Church, Daire McNamara.

We have not performed an audit and consequently, we do not express an opinion on the financial statements.

The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records and are consistent with the information and explanations supplied to us.



Mark Maloney & Co
Chartered Accountants
10 Oakfield
Monaleen
Limerick

Date: 25th March 2025

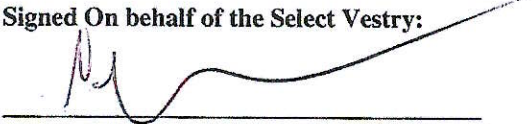
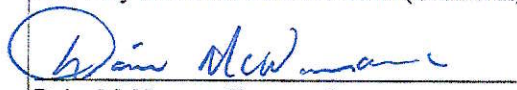
ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31 December 2024

Parochial account

	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
<u>Income</u>			
Church giving	1	52,301	53,060
Special giving	2	2,055	3,665
Rental income	3	6,360	9,840
Investment income	4	11,582	12,169
Fundraising income	5	5,525	3,748
Other income	6	3,497	3,482
		-----	-----
		81,320	85,964
		-----	-----
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Diocesan assessment		34,483	35,829
General expenses	7	5,519	5,324
Church premises	8	10,783	11,049
Administrative expenses	9	6,174	6,383
Special contributions	10	3,813	5,567
		-----	-----
		60,772	64,152
		-----	-----
Surplus before transfer to church repairs reserves		20,548	21,812
Transfer to Church repairs reserve	11	(15,000)	(20,000)
		-----	-----
Surplus for year		5,548	1,812
		=====	=====

Signed On behalf of the Select Vestry:
The Very Reverend Niall J. Sloane (Chairman)
Daire McNamara (Treasurer)

Date:

25/3/25

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS

at 31 December 2024

Bank accounts and investments

2024
€

2023
€

General Bank Account

Bank of Ireland

Balance in bank - start of year

18,847

17,035

Surplus for year

5,548

1,812

Balance in bank - end of year

24,395

18,847

Living Legacy Account

State Savings Prize Bonds

Balance at start of year

45,850

44,750

Contributions received in year

710

646

Tax refunds received

290

354

Prize Bond draw winnings in period

350

100

Balance at end of year

47,200

45,850

No.

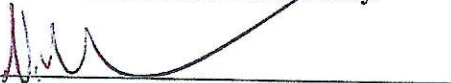
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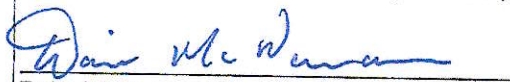
Prize Bond unit numbers held at 31 December

7,552

7,336

Signed On behalf of the Select Vestry:


The Very Reverend Niall J. Sloane (Chairman)


Daire McNamara (Treasurer)

Date:

25/3/25

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. <u>Church giving</u>	2024	2023
	€	€
Christian Stewardship	37,325	34,558
Plate collection	2,930	3,015
Sustentation Fund	-	2,396
Income tax refund	12,046	13,091
	-----	-----
	52,301	53,060
	=====	=====
 2. <u>Special giving</u>	 2024	 2023
	€	€
Priorities Fund	580	725
Bishops' Appeal	660	1,330
Mission Sunday	480	550
Bishops' Appeal-Ukraine	-	805
 <u>Retiring and other collections:</u>		
Earl Haig Poppy Fund	95	55
Leprosy Mission	240	200
	-----	-----
	2,055	3,665
	=====	=====
 3. <u>Rental income</u>	 2024	 2023
	€	€
Church Hall	6,360	9,840
	=====	=====

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
-
continued

4. <u>Investment income</u>	2024	2023
	€	€
Trinity Church - Trust Fund	8,887	9,911
RCB: Unit Trust Fund - Glebe Sale	518	498
- J. J. Smith	46	44
- Baroness Fermoy	23	22
- Mr and Mrs F. Wallace	231	222
- Clarina School Sale	17	17
- Rev Canon JL Enright Bequest	27	26
- RCB Interest - 4% Fedamore	18	17
- 3% Fedamore Glebe Sale	12	11
- Cahirmarry Glebe Sale	1,039	999
- Various Charitable Funds	315	303
Bank of Ireland dividend	449	99
	=====	=====
	11,582	12,169
	=====	=====
 5. <u>Fundraising income</u>	 2024	 2023
	€	€
CD Project for Organ Fund	300	145
Click and Collect Project	800	583
After service coffee receipts	850	805
Whist drives	1,270	930
Christmas Fair	1,124	-
Sundry Fundraising	1,181	1,285
	=====	=====
	5,525	3,748
	=====	=====
 6. <u>Other income</u>	 2024	 2023
	€	€
Sundry donations	138	1,036
Weddings, funerals	-	425
Representative Church Body Grant	1,100	-
VAT refund	884	401
Mothers Union	90	135
Newslink receipts	1,285	1,485
	=====	=====
	3,497	3,482
	=====	=====

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

-

continued

7. General expenses

2024	2023
€	€
Streaming Cathedral Services	200
Communion wine and candles	83
Printing and stationery	548
Clergy expenses	1,911
Bibles, directories, periodicals etc.	-
Telephone and postage	500
Clergy presentations	605
Visiting clergy expenses	75
Sundries	242
Newslink	1,355
-----	-----
5,519	5,324
=====	=====

8. Church premises

2024	2023
€	€
Repairs, maintenance and renewals	360
Electricity	1,404
Gas	1,652
Insurances	7,275
Water rates	92
-----	-----
10,783	11,049
=====	=====

9. Administrative expenses

2024	2023
€	€
Wages	4,259
Contribution to LCP audit fee	1,200
Accountancy fee	400
Bank charges	210
Payroll services	105
-----	-----
6,174	6,383
=====	=====

-

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

-

continued

10. Special contributions

	2024	2023
	€	€
Bishops' Appeal	660	2,135
Diocesan Mission Sunday Appeal	480	550
Diocesan Board of Education	100	200
Earl Haig Poppy Fund	200	200
Limerick Social Services Centre	250	250
MS-Limerick	250	250
Protestant Aid	250	250
Down Syndrome-Limerick	250	250
Leprosy Mission	240	200
Priorities fund	518	559
LCP Joint Charities	315	303
Limerick Suicide Watch	150	150
Limerick Treaty Suicide Watch	150	150
Mothers Union	-	120
	-----	-----
	3,813	5,567
	=====	=====

11. Church repairs reserve

	2024	2023
	€	€
Transfer to church repairs reserve	15,000	20,000
	=====	=====

12. Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the Select Vestry on 25th March 2025.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
PERY SQUARE, LIMERICK

CHURCH REPAIRS RESERVE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

STATEMENT OF RENTAL INCOME

and

CHURCH ORGAN FUND

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, PERY SQUARE, LIMERICK

CHURCH REPAIRS RESERVE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
	€	€
<u>Receipts</u>		
Insurance claim proceeds – plaque remedial works	56,077	-
Transfer from Church General Account	15,000	20,000
Net rental income – apartment	5,430	5,047
Deposit interest	71	70
	-----	-----
	76,578	25,117
	-----	-----
<u>Payments</u>		
Payments to Contractors:		
- Plaques remedial works	52,504	-
- Remedial roof works	-	6,178
- New LED lighting	2,512	4,540
- General repairs	1,148	691
Engineer's fees	2,829	-
Architect's fees	2,214	468
Sundry expense (presentation)	507	-
	-----	-----
	61,714	11,877
	-----	-----
Surplus of receipts over payments for period	14,864	13,240
Net assets		
- beginning of period	143,477	130,237
	-----	-----
Net assets	158,341	143,477
	=====	=====


Prepared by: Colin Marsden FCA

Date: 22 February 2025

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, PERY SQUARE, LIMERICK

CHURCH ORGAN FUND

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 €	2023 €
<u>Receipts</u>		
Transfer from Church General Account	-	-
	-----	-----
<u>Payments</u>		
Organ repairs	-	450
	-----	-----
Excess of payments over receipts for period	-	(450)
	-----	-----
Share in bank account - beginning of period	220	670
	-----	-----
Share in bank account - end of period	220	220
	=====	=====

The above balance is held in the Church Repairs Reserve deposit account (see page 3).


Prepared by: Colin Marsden FCA

Date: 22 February 2025

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, PERY SQUARE, LIMERICK

CHURCH REPAIRS RESERVE & CHURCH ORGAN FUND

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	31 December 2024 €	31 December 2023 €
<u>ASSETS</u>		
<u>Bank of Ireland</u>		
Repairs Reserve deposit account	159,619	144,755
	=====	=====
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Rental deposit retained	1,058	1,058
	=====	=====
 NET ASSETS	 158,561	 143,697
	=====	=====
<u>Financed by:</u>		
Church Repairs Reserve	158,341	143,477
Church Organ Fund	220	220
	-----	-----
	158,561	143,697
	=====	=====


Prepared by: Colin Marsden FCA

Date: 22 February 2025

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, PERY SQUARE, LIMERICK

CHURCH REPAIRS RESERVE

STATEMENT OF RENTAL INCOME – APARTMENT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
	€	€
<u>Income</u>		
Rental from tenants	12,696	11,348
Contribution to gas heating from tenants	551	1,178
	-----	-----
	13,247	12,526
	-----	-----
<u>Expenses</u>		
Repairs and maintenance	5,436	5,718
Property management fees	1,356	-
Gas heating	551	1,178
Insurance	371	315
Legal fee	-	125
Local Property Tax	103	103
PRTB registration fee	-	40
	-----	-----
	7,817	7,479
	-----	-----
Net rental income for year	5,430	5,047
	=====	=====


Prepared by: Colin Marsden FCA

Date: 22 February 2025

ABINGTON CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended

31 December 2024

Contents

Parochial Bank Accounts

Accountant's Report

Parochial Revenue Account

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Notes to the Financial Statements

Parochial Bank Accounts

The following bank accounts are incorporated in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities on page 5 of these financial statements:

Abington Church Fund (Account no. 005964) held in Mulcair Credit Union Limited, Newport, Co. Tipperary.

Caherconlish Old Church Interest Account (Account no. 623273) held in St. Ailbe's Credit Union Limited, Caherconlish, Co. Limerick.

Accountant's Report

To the members of the Select Vestry of Limerick City Parish.

I have reviewed the financial statements of Abington Church for the year ended 31 December 2024 set out on pages 4 to 8. My review consisted primarily of enquiry, comparison and discussion of these statements and of the information and explanations supplied. In accordance with the terms of our engagement, I have not performed an audit on these statements.

The statements are in agreement with the accounting records and are consistent with the information and explanations supplied to me.

Wesley Scott

Wesley Scott Accountant

Dated: 12-3-25

Parochial Revenue Accounts

	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
Income			
Church Offertory	1	7555	8153
Special contributions received	2	1385	2400
Donations + grant	3	6181	3675
Investment income	4	3670	3507
Other income	5	2506	2685
Total		<u>21297</u>	<u>20420</u>
Expenditure			
Diocesan assessment		6801	6464
Repairs and maintenance	6	5517	10978
Light and heat		2468	2302
Insurance		2266	2134
Newslink		135	0
Special contributions	7	1390	2985
Cathedral shared expenses / recharges		1424	1492
Credit Union Fee, Dirt		10	2
Catering		300	300
<u>Gifts</u>		<u>240</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Organist</u>		<u>100</u>	<u>0</u>
Total		<u>20651</u>	<u>26657</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		<u>646</u>	<u>(6237)</u>

On behalf of the Select Vestry

Felicity Roche

Hon. Treasurer

Dated: 27th February 2025

[Signature]

Rector

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
Debtors			
RCB Interest		1458	1412
Tax Rebate		1828	0
Pobal Grant (Cathedral account)		12498	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		15784	1412

Bank and Cash Accounts

Abington Church , Murroe Account		3303	5559
Caherconlish No. 1 account		13652	11357
Cash and cheques in Hand		619	2316
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	8	17574	19232

Accruals/ Loans/ Deferred Income

Cathedral loan (1600 paid)		3400	5000
LCP Shared Expenses/ recharges		1424	992
Repairs		738	0
Deferred Income-Pobal Grant		12498	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		18060	5992

On behalf of the Select Vestry

1 Febeuf Roche

Hon. Treasurer



Rector

Dated: 27th February 2028

Notes to the Financial Statements

	2024 €	2023 €
1 Church Offertory		
Plate collection total	5455	5763
Sustentation fund	2100	2400
	7555	8153
2 Special Contributions Received		
Bishop's appeal	365	970
Mission Sunday	130	90
Carol Service	890	1085
Bishops Peregrination	0	255
	1385	2400
3 Donations Received		
History Day ,Le Fanu. Choral event	70	0
Donations – General & Donation Box	3486	2155
Syriac Contribution	1825	1520
Church grant	800	0
	6181	3675
4 Investment Income		
RCB, Investment, . Murroe	139	112
R.C.B. Investment – Caherconlish	3531	3395
	3670	3507
5 Other Income		
Tax rebate from 2022	0	903
Tax rebate 2023	1828	1341
<u>Gift Collection</u>	190	0
Catering Collection	240	245
Tax Rebates Vat	203	96
Newslink Contribution	45	90
	2506	2685

Notes to the Financial Statements contd.

	2024 €	2023 €
6 Repairs and Maintenance		
Water rates	83	26
Hedge cutting	0	800
Building repairs	4809	0
Grasscutting	350	350
Sundry	275	92
Heating project	0	8354
Electrical upgrade	0	1356
	<hr/> 5517	<hr/> 10978
7 Special Contributions		
Mission Sunday	150	100
Bishop's appeal	350	1000
Bishops Peregrination	0	300
Carol service to VDP	890	1085
Ukraine Appeal (,from Christmas concert 2022)	0	500
	<hr/> 1390	<hr/> 2985

Notes to the Financial Statements contd.

	2024 €	2023 €
8 Movement in Bank and Cash Balances		
Opening balance	19232	20264
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	646	(6237)
 (Increase) Decrease in debtors	 (14372)	 (135)
(Decrease)/Increase in accruals and deferred income	12068	5340
 Closing balance	 <u>17574</u>	 <u>19232</u>

Approval of the Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved by the Select Vestry on 27th February 2024.

DATE

Felinty Roche

Hon. Treasurer

[Signature]

Rector

LIMERICK CITY PARISH FUND – GLEBES ACCOUNT

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023	2022
	€	€	€
Income			
Investment Income from RCB	18,109	17,413	16,716
VAT refund (share of LCP refund)	196	89	194
	-----	-----	-----
	18,305	17,502	16,910
	-----	-----	-----
Expenditure			
Maintenance & current expenditure for houses:			
- Deanery	2,823	5,627	2,969
- Curate's house	2,253	2,295	3,176
Bank charges	35	51	49
Deanery – capital works	-	3,450	1,021
Curate's house – capital works	-	9,535	-
Share of audit fee of LCP financial statements	200	106	106
Contribution to Diocesan assessment (ability to pay)	9,876	10,089	10,089
	-----	-----	-----
	15,187	31,153	17,410
	-----	-----	-----
Surplus/(deficit for year)	3,118	(13,651)	(500)
Add: capital expenditure treated as fixed assets in LCP consolidated financial statements	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
Surplus/(deficit) for LCP consol. financial statements	3,118	(13,651)	(500)
	=====	=====	=====
Balance in Bank – 1 st January	32,473	46,124	46,624
Surplus/(deficit) cashflow for year	3,118	(13,651)	(500)
	-----	-----	-----
Balance in Bank – 31 st December	35,591	32,473	46,124
Capitalised house expenditure – Deanery	24,152	24,152	24,152
	-----	-----	-----
Total assets in LCP consolidated financial statements	59,743	56,625	70,276
	=====	=====	=====

Approved by Glebe Wardens:

Tracey Lytle

Brian Sheppard

Date: 23/02/2025

Brian Sheppard

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT:

To the members of the Select Vestry - Limerick City Parish

I have prepared the Financial Statement of Limerick City Parish Fund – Glebes Account, for the year ended 31 December 2024, from the accounting records maintained by the Glebe Warden, Mrs. Tracey Lytle.

Based on my review, I confirm that the Financial Statement is in agreement with the accounting records and is consistent with the information and explanations supplied to me.

Colin Marsden
COLIN MARSDEN FCA
Date: 24/02/2025

List of accounts held

- 1) St Mary's Cathedral – AIB, Raheen - Parochial Account No. 24762652
- 2) St Mary's Cathedral – AIB Raheen - Repairs Reserve Fund Account No. 24762223 (deposit)
- 3) St Mary's Cathedral – AIB Raheen – Restoration Fund Account No. 24762579
- 4) St Mary's Cathedral – AIB O'Connell Street - Graveyard Fund Account No. 39354099
- 5) St Mary's Cathedral – AIB O'Connell Street – Dean's Contingency Fund Account No. 99094112
- 6) St Mary's Cathedral - Permanent TSB - Bellringing Fund Account No. 04420044
- 7) The Friends of St Mary's Cathedral – Permanent TSB Account No. 24470009
- 8) St Michael's Church - BOI O'Connell Street - Church Fund Account No. 15371939
- 9) St Michael's Church - BOI O'Connell St - Church Repairs Reserve Deposit A/c No. 15393230
- 10) St Michael's Church - Living Legacy Account – State Savings Prize Bonds
- 11) Abington Church - St Ailbes Credit Union – Old Church Interest Account no. 00623273
- 12) Abington Church - Mulcair Credit Union – Abington Church Fund Account no. 00005964
- 13) Limerick City Parish – BOI O'Connell Street - Glebes Account no. 18633551

DONATIONS TO CHARTITES 2024

As noted in the accounts over €16,000 was given by the parish to charitable purposes, among those supported are:

CHARITY	AMOUNT €
Ana Liffey Drugs Project	1761
Bishops' Appeal	2265
Bishops' Ordinands and in training Fund	500
CARI Limerick	1761
Church of Ireland Theological Institute	300
Church's Ministry of Healing	300
Community Mental Health Initiative	300
Diocesan Board of Education	780
Diocesan Mission Sunday Appeal	1060
Down Syndrome – Limerick	250
Earl Haig Poppy Fund	520
Jigsaw	600
Leprosy Mission	240
LCP Joint Charities	315
Limerick Island Community Partnership (Meals on Wheels)	600
Limerick Social Services Centre	250
Limerick Suicide Watch	150
Limerick Treaty Suicide Watch	150
MS – Limerick	250
Priorities Fund	1151
Protestant Aid	250
R.C.B. Library	300
Royal Society for Church Music	320
St Vincent de Paul	890
UDYC	100
Villiers Housing	1075
TOTAL	€16438

CAPITAL ASSETS *(All buildings are held in Trust by the R.C.B.)*

The Deanery, 7 Kilbane, Castletroy, Limerick
 The Curatage, 50 Ballinvoher, Father Russell Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick
 St Michael's Apartment Cathedral House, Nicholas Street, Limerick
 Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street, Limerick
 Saint Michael's Church, Pery Square, Limerick Ss John & Ailbe Church, Abington
 Meelick Church (in ruins) Killmurry Arts & Heritage Centre

BEQUEST FORM

Note

The particular form of bequest set out hereafter is suggested with a view to facilitating the administration of funds left to the Church in trust but the Select vestry of Limerick City Parish recommends that a Solicitor be consulted to ensure that bequest made under Will are valid and satisfy legal requirements.

I GIVE, DEVISE AND BEQUEATH *[here insert clear particulars of the benefaction i.e., a particular sum of money, specific property, a share of the residue, etc.]* to the Select Vestry of Limerick City Parish in trust for *[here insert name of church/fund]* in the diocese of Limerick.

I direct that any funds received by the Select Vestry of Limerick City Parish in pursuance of this my Will may be invested in any investments or securities whatsoever in its sole discretion and in all respects as if it were absolutely and beneficially entitled thereto.

ENVELOPE REQUEST FORM

(Please return to the Clergy, Treasurer or a Churchwarden)

I/we request a box of Weekly Envelopes:

Name: _____

Address: _____

STANDING ORDER FORM

(Please complete and forward to your bank manager)

To: The Manager – Bank/Building Society:									
Bank Address:									
								Date:	
I/We hereby authorise and request you to debit <i>my/our</i> account									
Account Number								Sort Code	
with the Sum of €									
say in words:									
And to credit									
Account Number									
Payee Reference:									
Bank:									
Sort Code:									
Frequency of Payment: <i>Weekly/Monthly/Annually (delete as appropriate)</i>									
Start Date <i>(until further notice in writing)</i> : / /									
Name/Account Title <i>(Block Capitals)</i>									
Signatures(s):									

Bank Details:

Saint Mary's Cathedral - AIB Bank, O'Connell St, Limerick
BIC: AIBKIE2D IBAN: IE57AIBK93547624762652 Sort Code: 935476
Account no: 24762652

Saint Michael's Church - Bank of Ireland, 125 O'Connell Street, Limerick
BIC: BOFIE2D IBAN: IE29BOFI90430915371939 Sort Code: 904309
Account no: 15371939

Saint John's Church, Abington - Old Church Interest Account, St Ailbes Credit Union
Caherconlish
Account No.6232 BIC: AICUIE2I IBAN : IE19AICU99217710068674

LIMERICK CITY PARISH
EASTER GENERAL VESTRY
MEETING PACK



ANNUAL GENERAL VESTRY

SUNDAY 6TH APRIL 2025, 12 NOON

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL, BRIDGE STREET, LIMERICK

Any member of Limerick City Parish, or a sub-committee thereof, who has (or whose family member or business partner has) a pecuniary or other material interest in any matter which is the subject of consideration at a meeting at which the member is present, shall declare an interest in the matter and withdraw from the meeting for the duration of discussions or decision making on the matter. No sub-committee of Limerick City Parish shall, without the consent of Limerick City Parish resolve that the Limerick City Parish will enter into a contract with a member of the sub-committee or with any company of which that member is a partner, director or controlling shareholder provided that this shall not apply to any matter which is remote or insubstantial. Every declaration of interest shall be recorded in the minutes

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Annual General Vestry meeting 7th April 2024.
4. Matters Arising
5. Rector's Address
6. Appointment of Rector's Wardens
7. Nominations and Elections to Select Vestry 2025-2026
8. Finance: - (a) St Mary's Cathedral
 - (b) St Michael's Church
 - (c) St Michael's Church Repairs/Reserve Account
 - (d) Abington Church
 - (e) Glebes Account
 - (f) Dean's Contingency Fund
 - (g) The Friends of Saint Mary's Cathedral
9. Appointment of Auditors (HLB McKeogh Gallagher Ryan)
10. Close

STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes of Annual General Vestry meeting held on Sunday 7th of April 2024 in Saint Mary's Cathedral.

1. **Opening Prayer:** The Dean opened the meeting with prayer.

Present: Dean Niall Sloan (Chairperson), Fisayo Alo, Peter Barley, Adrienne Baron, Lindsay Boyle, Roland Boyle, John Bradley, Kariba Braide, Margaret Brickenden, Richard Brickenden, Victor Brown, Gillian Cheatley, Barbara Clayton, Flora Collins, Craig Copley Brown, Susanne Eckhardt, Charles Irwin, Ian Irwin, Shawn Jameson, Lucy Kavanagh, Tristan Kessler, Ruth Lillie O'Connell, Joe Lynam, Liz Lynam, Tracey Lyttle, Trevor Lyttle, Rev'd Leonard Madden, Alison McHugh, Daire McNamara, Hugh Milne, Keith Morrow, Sheelagh Morrow, Ian Mulvey, Meghan Mulvey, Ann Oakley, Anthony O'Connell, Cormac O'Connell, Jimmy Ogwal, Christian Okechukwu, Brian O'Malley, Brian Sheppard, Catherine Smith, Elizabeth Stanley, Bertie Swanton, Siobhan Wheeler, Karen Wilson and Joan Wylie.

2. **Apologies:** Richard Brickenden, Philip Cullen, Peter Schutz, Margaret Schutz, and Kieran Sparling.

3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual General Vestry meeting held on Thursday 27th of April 2023 were proposed by Richard Brickenden, seconded by Catherine Smith, approved by all and signed. The Minutes of the Annual General Vestry meeting held on Sunday 10th March 2024 which was adjourned to a later date as the parochial accounts were not ready due to the complexity of the Cathedral accounts were proposed by Brian Sheppard, seconded by Karen Wilson, approved by all and signed.

4. **Matters Arising:** None

The Dean presented a gift to Tracey Lyttle and Lindsay Boyle on their retirement of Hon. Secretary and People's Church Warden respectively.

5. **Rector's Report** – The Dean thanked everyone in the parish for their support and understanding during the year. His report is attached to these Minutes which was read out during the church service. (Appendix A).

6. **Appointment of Rector's Wardens 2024-2025**

St. Mary's Cathedral	Frank Sheahan
St. Michael's Church	Tristan Kessler
Abington	Elizabeth Stanley
Glebe	Brian Sheppard

7. **Select Vestry elected for year 2024-2025**

People's Wardens	
St. Mary's Cathedral	Victor Brown
St. Michael's Church	Cormac O'Connell
Abington	Bertie Swanton
Glebe	Tracey Lyttle

Vestry Members

Lindsay Boyle, Richard Brickenden, Margaret Brickenden, Gillian Cheatley, Susi Eckhardt, Niamh Horrigan, Lucy Kavanagh, Trevor Lyttle, Daire McNamara, Keith Morrow, Ian Mulvey, Meghan Mulvey,

8. Finance:

Charles Irwin presented the Saint Mary's Cathedral Parochial Revenue Account for y/e 31 December 2023. Total income €310,894 compared to €343,590 in 2022. Expenditure €290,395 compared to €256,804 in 2022. A surplus of €20,499 compared to a surplus of €86,766 in 2022. The surplus for the year has been transferred to general reserve.

Daire McNamara presented the Saint Michael's Accounts for y/e 31 December 2023. Total Income €85,964 compared to €82,977 in 2022. Expenditure €64,152 compared to €68,413 in 2022. A surplus of €21,812 compared to a surplus of €14,564 in 2022. €20,000 was transferred to Church repairs reserve leaving a surplus for the year of €1,812. The Living Legacy balance is €45,850. The total income of The Church Repairs Reserve is €25,117 compared to €30,420 in 2022. Expenditure of €11,877 compared to a zero expenditure in 2022. This was due to remedial roof works and new LED lighting, leaving a bank balance of €143,477.

Bertie Swanton presented the Abington accounts for y/e 31 December 2023. Total income €20,420 compared to €18,172 in 2022. Expenditure €26,657 compared to €16,949 in 2022. A deficit of €6,237 compared to a surplus of €1,223 in 2022.

Keith Morrow presented the LCP Glebes Account for y/e 31 December 2023. Total income €17,502 compared to €16,910 in 2022. Expenditure €31,153 compared to €17,410 in 2022. A deficit of €13,651 compared to a deficit of €500 in 2022.

The Dean's Contingency Fund has a bank balance of €876 and the Friend's of Saint Mary's Cathedral has a bank balance of €18,971.

The Dean thanked Colin Marsden for all the work he does on behalf of the Parish with the accounts, and he thanked Charlie Irwin, Group Treasurer and all those responsible for keeping our accounts in order. He also thanked Keith Morrow, Chair of the Finance Committee for his work.

The approval of the Financial Statements for y/e 31 December 2023 - proposed by Craig Copley Brown, seconded by Susi Eckhardt and agreed by all.

9. The appointment of HLB McKeogh Gallagher Ryan as Auditors - proposed by Keith Morrow and seconded by Daire McNamara and agreed by all.

Richard Brickenden thanks the Finance Committee and in particular the three treasurers and Margaret Brickenden thanked the Dean and Curate for all their work in the parish.

10. Closing Prayer: The meeting closed with Grace.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

APPENDIX A

Rector's talk to Easter General Vestry – April 7th 2024

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for being here today. Your presence is a visible sign of your continued commitment and support to your parish. This year I will have been leading public worship for a quarter of a century. It is a privilege to do so, but a task which comes with a mighty weight of responsibility. Leading people in prayer, celebrating the sacraments and preaching the word – is central to what I do as a priest. Of course, worship is central and forefront to all we do as a Christian community in this place. Buildings, finance, compliance, regulations are all secondary – ALL OF THEM. Worship comes first – always. However, we cannot ignore the secondaries – money, repairs, risk assessments are all necessary and we are fortunate to have some wonderful people to help manage all these things. To those who generously support ministry here through their giving, assist in worship (lay and ordained and here I pay particular tribute to Leonard). But also those who lead and participate in our choirs, maintain linens, church cleaning and opening, rotas, wardening, keeping accounts, arrange flowers, refreshments, activities, magazines, the members of our Select Vestry and other parish committees, those willing to do odd jobs, co-ordinate our children's activities, help strengthen the links between our parish and its primary school, and to all those who volunteer and give of their time within our parish – to all you thank you. Last year, I spoke of my desire to focus in 2023 on Children and Youth – to be honest, this is an area of ministry that I am not naturally gifted in but I do recognise its importance and how you have to keep working at it. My ministry has always been grounded on the principle to preach the gospel, if necessary use words. For me and I think any parish, the strength of pastoral care, generous hospitality and warm welcome can do some amazing things. It can be amazing how it is in the little things that God's love and work is most active. And so, the work goes on. Over the last year, I've been reflecting on my own ministry. As mentioned earlier I am now leading worship for over 25 years. Last Autumn marked the 7th anniversary of my installation as Dean and I have now spent longer here than in any previous parish. In fact, this coming October I will be entitled, under episcopal guidelines, to a sabbatical. Lots to think about and I have also been thinking about what ministry looks like in LCP. To this end I have shared some thoughts with the Select Vestry and you will all be aware of the recent Parish Survey which I hope will provide some further thoughts for the incoming Select Vestry to reflect on. One thing I have learned in recent years is that you can please some of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all of the time. As rector, it's my duty to try and see the bigger picture, that inevitably leads one into having, at times, to make decisions that not all are happy with. In a sense, I imagine it is no different for anyone in any position of leadership – business, political or otherwise. However, my dear parishioners, know this – every day I pray that God will make me faithful and diligent in my duties and forgive me where I have may have caused upset. I can do no more.

As there is no other opportunity in the year, I want to publicly thank and acknowledge the unwavering love and support Karen (and Evelyn) provide. Often the Deanery family take second place in the parish, and I am humbled by that expression of devotion. Parishioners, if you wish to do anything today, thank them. And so, may God bless us in the year ahead – with joy, with love and with grace. Amen.

Niall J.W. Sloane: DEAN & RECTOR 7th April 2024

Statement of Charitable Purpose

Saint Mary's Cathedral is the registered name and includes all parishes within Limerick City Parish

The Charitable purpose of Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick of the Church of Ireland is the advancement of religion.

The Charitable objects: The principal function of Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick of the Church of Ireland is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through the work of Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help are fundamental to the practical delivery of the benefits of Christianity. as a result of activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick has custody of property and of records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage and maintenance of which is undertaken by Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick.

